

THE TIMES Tomorrow

US primaries
The Times Guide to the US primaries



Massage parlours
Licence to massage: eye there's the rub

Davis Cup
Rex Bellamy previews Britain's Davis Cup match against Italy

South Africa
David Watt on South African foreign policy after the Mozambique Accord

Royal date
Miles Kingston on the protocol for a princely girlfriend

Dounreay delay censured

Lack of government control has been blamed for £19m delays in the development of the Dounreay nuclear reactor. The Controller and Auditor General said neither the Department of Energy nor the Atomic Energy Authority had bothered to discover the financial consequences of the delay. The reactor is now nine years behind schedule. **Page 2**

Action sought to curb pollution

More money should be spent on controlling pollution, according to a royal commission report which recommends a ban on straw burning and a move towards nuclear power. **Page 5**

Iran attack

Iran claimed to have advanced within artillery range of the main Baghdad-Basra road after launching a large-scale attack on Iraqi positions. **Page 7**

Gunman sought

A third IRA gunman is being hunted after an SAS operation in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, in which two terrorists and a soldier were killed. **Page 2**

Airbus move

The Government is under increased pressure to provide £437m of launch aid for Airbus A320, the European airline venture, after the Bonn Cabinet approved DM 1,500m (£470m) for the project. **Page 19**

Grenada charge

Seven people were charged with the murder of Maurice Bishop, the former Prime Minister of Grenada. **Page 6**

Torture claim

A white former student leader told a court how he was hooded, given electric shocks and beaten by South African security police. **Page 8**

Hongkong hope

The ninth round of talks opened between Britain and China over Hongkong, with the Chinese apparently hopeful about general agreement by mid-year. **Page 9**

Threat to Tests

Student leaders in Pakistan have threatened to disrupt the coming Test series against England unless the military government lifts a proscription on students' unions. **Page 22**

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Britain demanding compensation for stranded drivers

● As the French lorry blockade tightened, Britain pressed France for compensation. Up to 300 British lorry drivers are thought trapped. Bankruptcy faces many small firms
● The French Government offered a wide package of concessions to the drivers whose response was to triple the blockades. Some 6,300 juggernauts are now involved
● Industry, tourists and food supplies are being hit elsewhere. The Brenner Pass, West Germany's main artery to Italy is clogged by 1,300 lorries protesting at the customs men's go slow

By David Nicholson-Lord, Michael Bailey and Diana Geddes in Paris

Britain is pressing the French Government for compensation for the hundreds of British lorry-drivers stranded with their cargoes in France by the French lorry-drivers' blockade. Over £2m may be involved, rising to £250,000 each day as many smaller British haulage firms are threatened with bankruptcy.

The Government's approach to the French authorities, initially through their ambassador in London, was revealed in the Commons yesterday as the effects of the blockade worsened and the Opposition called for stranded motorists and drivers to be offered an airlift out.

Many British drivers in the Alps last night spent their seventh night in sub-zero temperatures and without sight of British consuls, despite attempts by the latter to reach them. They are being fed locally but some dare not leave their cabs and money is running low.

The hotels group, Trust House Forte, last night announced that it was sending a lorry with enough food and drink for 400 meals from the Des Bergues hotel in Geneva, which THF owns, to about 100 lorry drivers stranded at Salanches, near Chamonix, on the French side of the Mont Blanc tunnel.

The group said it was responding to appeals and had considered an airlift using its airport catering service at Heathrow. A spokesman added: "We would still have to get the supplies from the airport at Geneva. We are not absolutely certain that we can get through, but we are going to try."

Despite wide-ranging concessions to the lorry-drivers announced by the French Government, the drivers yesterday tripled their blockades, cutting off Charles de Gaulle international airport and barricading the main Paris to Lyons railway. Some 6,300 juggernauts are now taking part in 150 road blocks round the country.

Despite an initial welcome to the package of concessions from the French road haulage organisations, rank-and-file drivers immediately demanded fresh talks on unmet demands before lifting the blockade. The French Cabinet yesterday declared it wanted a "gesture of goodwill" before resuming negotiations.

Another 4,000 trucks are thought to be affected in Germany, Italy and Austria and 23,500 French Peugeot car workers have been laid off because parts have not arrived. This could rise to 40,000 today if the blockade continues. At the French-Italian border where the trouble started, Italian customs officials were continuing their work-to-rule.

According to reports reaching London yesterday, a British driver was beaten up outside Marseilles, a British lorry had its tyres slashed. The French strikers at Montelimar and another Briton was taken to hospital after being driven from his cab by tear gas shells fired by French riot police on Tuesday. A Dutch truck driver was wounded overnight on Tuesday when a frustrated motorist fired a hunting rifle. The British road haulage industry, which is preparing a

multi-million pound claim against the French Government, yesterday expressed growing concern about possible bankruptcies among small firms. About 300 British lorries are thought to be immobilised: one Essex firm, Martstrucks, of Grays, has almost half its 25-strong fleet stranded in the blockade.

Mr Freddie Plaskett, director-general of the Road Haulage Association, representing 12,000 hauliers, said there appeared to be a good case for compensation from the French Government in view of the precedent of English lamb in France.

In the Commons, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said the Government had made clear to France, through Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in Paris, its "great concern" for the welfare of stranded Britons.

He disclosed that the question of compensation had been raised with the French Ambassador on Tuesday by Mr Ray Whitney, Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. A reply was awaited.

The French Government promised further talks with their hauliers on March 1 in its response on Tuesday. Among concessions it has made are guarantees for a permanent passage across the Franco-Italian frontier; concessions on toll charges; relaxation of maximum driving hours rules; and £670,000 compensation to hauliers for losses suffered in the dispute.

Mercy trips by diplomats

By Patricia Clough

British consular officials were yesterday trudging through the bitter cold and snow along lines of blocked lorries in the French and Italian Alps searching for British lorry drivers in distress.

One official, dispatched from the consulate in Lyons reported that he had located about 30 drivers living in "very unpleasant conditions" in a jam by the end of the Frejus Tunnel, but so far had found no serious cases of hardship.

Mr Alan Payne, the Consul General in Lyons, told *The Times*: "The depressing thing is there is no prospect of any break ahead for them."

Numerous other drivers are

believed to be stranded in another jam near the Mont Blanc Tunnel. Mr Graham Romaine, a vice-consul had found a girl who had received news that her father was seriously ill in Britain and had rushed her in a dramatic five and a half hour journey through a blizzard to Geneva airport, he said.

Mr Brian Bubb, another vice-consul from Lyons, had been sleeping at night in the cabs of lorries stranded high up on the Mont Blanc. Both vice-consuls have been up there since Monday, and they have not been getting more than two hours sleep a night, Mr Payne said.

The lorry drivers were being fed by the local population and by bars and cafes near by. Some had been able to unhook their cabs from their loads and drive to the nearest villages to eat. One or two had even found warm accommodation. The British Consul in Milan left Aosta yesterday in search of some 300 British drivers reported stuck on the Italian side.

The drivers are being fed from soup kitchens and given food vouchers by the local authorities. Drivers in both France and Italy were running short of cash. The Consulate General in Lyons had made arrangements for firms to send out money.



MacGregor knocked over at pit protest

Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, was knocked to the ground as angry miners surged round him at the Ellington colliery, Northumberland, yesterday.

Mr MacGregor, aged 71, lay dazed for several seconds before being helped to his feet and into a waiting car. He was obviously shaken.

The tyres on Mr MacGregor's Rover had been let down, its paint scratched and windscreen wipers removed.

Earlier, 400 jeering miners had besieged an office where he met colliery officials. They demanded a meeting with Mr MacGregor, which he refused. His offer to meet a delegation was rejected.

When he went to leave the police lined a path, but the crowd surged forward and a low

fence behind him collapsed. Mr MacGregor fell to the ground, with several people on him.

He was then driven to the NCB headquarters at Team Valley, Gateshead, for lunch.

The office blockade had forced Mr MacGregor to cancel an underground trip and lunch at Ellington, the North-east's most profitable pit which runs six miles under the North Sea.

The demonstrators, angry that Mr MacGregor avoided them at the main gates by using a different entrance, were protesting about the planned loss of 600 jobs this year at Bates colliery in Blyth, near by.

The Northumberland miner's president, Mr Dennis Murphy, said the union did not plan to apologise to Mr MacGregor.

Unions face defeat on GCHQ

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Union leaders go to Downing Street today in a pessimistic mood feeling that they have been unable to persuade the Prime Minister to drop her proposed ban on unions at the Cheltenham communications headquarters.

While publicly stating their optimism that compromise proposals put to Mrs Thatcher will be sufficient to satisfy the Government there would be future no industrial disruption at GCHQ, union officials are not hopeful.

The unions yesterday confirmed their belief that the Prime Minister's assertion that more than half of the employees at GCHQ had agreed to forgo union membership was an over-estimation. They issued figures claiming that at most, 3,000 out of more than 7,000 staff had signed.

Union concessions, page 2

Police chiefs seek 80mph speed limit

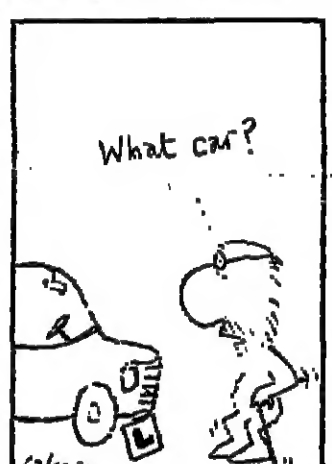
By Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

An 80mph speed limit on motorways, together with tougher driving tests and wider police powers against drinking drivers, were urged by Britain's chief constables in evidence to the Commons transport committee yesterday.

They want more resources put into traffic law enforcement and the simplification of regulations which are so complicated that even policemen cannot understand them, the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) says.

Speed limits in Britain were in "a mess" and urgently needed revising. Many were retained merely for historical reasons and have become unrealistic. There was a case for raising the speed limit on motorways to 80mph their evidence says.

Driving tests should be made much more extensive and rigorous, and fitness tests on



elderly people should be introduced. Police should have the power to test drivers' eyesight.

The British system allowed no probationary period, no year of restricted usage or special speed limit as other countries

Continued on back page, col 1

Trustees to keep veto at Reuters

By Philip Robinson

Trustees of Reuters, the news agency planning a £1 billion stock market debut in May, have approved a plan to protect its integrity and independence. Through a new company, Reuters Founders Share Company, 14 trustees will control one share of the news agency which will be empowered to outvote all others.

The Agreement of Trust (1941) will have to be rewritten to change the existing rules. At one time it was thought that Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, would need to be consulted, but in a House of Lords debate this month it was made clear that neither the office of Lord Chief Justice, nor Lord Lane had an obligation to intervene.

A legally enforceable framework will now be established to ensure that the principles of the trust are observed.

Powers built in, page 19

London police test water cannons

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

British-built water cannon, delivered to the Metropolitan Police, have been evaluated for riot control. Their use has not until now been part of the police tactics in the United Kingdom, the Home Office said last night.

Scotland Yard declined to comment and the Home Office would give no technical details of the cannon, beyond saying they were two prototypes.

The reason given by the Home Office was that, after tests had been studied, specifications might change. It is not known how long the evaluation will last but 18 months to two years is thought possible.

The tests follow riots in Britain and elsewhere and an announcement by Mr William Whitelaw, then Home Secretary, in July 1981 when he said: "There may be extreme circumstances in which further

equipment may be required in dealing with riots. It has therefore decided to make available to chief officers for the conduct of operations, a range of alternatives."

He said that different types of water cannon were being looked at by police forces to see which might suit their needs. CS gas and plastic bullets should also be available as a very last resort under strict control.

News that the water cannon are being evaluated came in a Commons written reply to Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North. He told *The Times* last night: "I think this is a very bad idea. It is a very aggressive form of policing and crowd control. Injuries have been caused in West Germany by the use of water cannon."

Israel's PLO claims make Muslims fear Beirut attack

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

nian camps and Muslim slums, however, Israel's claims constitute a dangerous obsession that could lead to air strikes against their homes.

Some of the reports from Israel are simply untrue. A claim that 2,000 guerrillas have returned to Beirut - later reduced to 1,400 - appears to have no basis, although the Palestinian rebel leader, Mr Abu Saleh, who defeated Mr Yassir Arafat's forces in Lebanon last year, is believed to have asked Mr Nabih Berri, the Amal militia leader, for permission to return to Beirut on three separate occasions. Mr Berri turned him down every time.

The latest Israeli report to claim that the PLO was reappearing in Beirut came in the daily newspaper *Haaretz*, which alleged that United States, British, French and

Tens of thousands of PLO Muslims in west Beirut are fearful that Israel, after claiming that Palestinian guerrillas have returned to the Lebanese capital, may soon launch air raids on the western sector of the city for the first time since the siege of 1982.

When the last American Marines leave the airport in a few days' time, the civilians of west Beirut will be protected only by the Lebanese Muslim militias who control the streets and whose leaders are now making strenuous efforts to assure diplomats that the PLO will not be allowed to return.

To the Israelis, rumours of the reappearance of PLO guerrillas in Beirut represent a frightening prospect, opening the possibility that the Palestinians might once again create a state within a state in Lebanon. To the civilians of the Palesti-

Italian embassies in Lebanon had all received a memorandum containing details of PLO redeployment in the Lebanese capital, complete with maps of the areas involved. The article also stated that the PLO was about to move into its former headquarters in Corniche Mazraa.

But the American embassy stated yesterday that it had received no such document, while the British embassy has no knowledge of any memorandum about the PLO. When I visited the PLO's former offices on Corniche Mazraa yesterday afternoon, I found no gunmen inside.

Curiously, there were Hebrew inscriptions and several spray-painted Stars of David on the first-floor walls - uncanceled since the Israeli Army camped in the apartments in 1982 - but Continued on back page, col 5

Labour leaders to boycott Dimbleby

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Labour Party leaders decided yesterday to refuse to be interviewed by the broadcaster David Dimbleby because of his dispute with the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) over his decision to move the printing of his west London newspapers to a non-union plant.

The party's national executive committee supported a motion drafted by the NUJ calling on members of the Labour Party and trade unions "to refuse to speak to David Dimbleby until he ends his association with the anti-union T. Bailey Foreman empire."

The decision of the Dimbleby group to switch its printing to TBF, the Nottingham printer, led to a strike by journalists at



Mr Dimbleby: "Surprised" by decision

his newspapers. A House of Lords judgment is expected soon on an NUJ appeal against a ruling that the strike was unlawful. Yesterday's decision is not

binding on Labour leaders, but it is unlikely that they would defy it.

Mr Dimbleby, who has a freelance contract with the BBC, will make his next appearance on March 13, presenting the Budget Day programme, in which it was expected that he would interview Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader and shadow Chancellor.

That will not happen, Mr Hattersley said last night: "I will abide by the NEC decision." So it was made clear last night, would Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader.

Mr Eric Heffer, the party chairman, said: "The decision means that if I am asked to go on the programme with David Dimbleby I do not go."

Journalists at the BBC have rejected a call from their union

not to work with Mr Dimbleby. Mr Dimbleby said last night that he was surprised by the Labour Party decision because the NUJ chapel (office branch) with which he worked most closely, that at the BBC, had voted to work with him, after hearing both sides of the story.

The BBC declined to comment last night.

The Labour executive also decided yesterday to have a special meeting on March 7 to discuss the draft manifesto put forward by the Confederation of European Socialist Parties for the European elections in June.

Labour will also produce its own manifesto. An early draft prepared by the party's research staff was not to the liking of the international committee and has been sent back for revision.

Ford strike call over Thames foundry closure

A strike call to Ford's 57,000 car workers was issued yesterday after the company refused to reverse its decision to close the loss-making Thames foundry at Dagenham by April next year (Our Labour Reporter writes).

The 19,000 work force at Dagenham, which has already voted for the action, is to start an indefinite stoppage on March 5. Mass meetings are to follow at the company's 18 other major plants.

The strike is also in response to the company's announcement yesterday that a replacement engine for middle-range models, such as the Sierra, will be manufactured in Germany and the United States.

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PARLIAMENT February 22 1984

Bringing Russia into talks on Lebanon

MIDDLE EAST

When it was suggested that talks between the Soviet Union and the United States, in a conference on the Middle East at which Britain and other countries participated, would be a step in the right direction, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons that he would not be persuaded such a conference would be appropriate at this stage.

It was, however, he added, a subject which he had raised with Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Stockholm.

The Foreign Secretary was questioned at length on the situation in the Lebanon and in the Gulf with MPs pointing to the need for the Soviet Union to be brought into talks. Sir Geoffrey Howe said there were likely to be informal consultations at the United Nations later in the day (Wednesday) on the basis of a French draft resolution, which would, however, be unacceptable if the Soviet Union asked for the removal of all US ships from the area.

He also added that if the situation in the Gulf required any movement of a significant kind there, they would need to acquire the Soviet Union of the position.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that fighting continued between the Lebanese armed forces and the Druze Militia in the Chouf Mountains. In Beirut, the ceasefire was generally holding but the situation remained tense.

If further bloodshed is to be avoided (he said) the Lebanese people must make further efforts to settle their differences by negotiation. We shall do all we can to help.

Mr Neil Thomas (Ilford, South, C) said the abrogation of the treaty between Lebanon and Israel of May 17, 1983, was to the comfort of terrorist forces in the Middle East. This was bad, considering that one of the main hopes for those living in the area must be the support of the

only democracy in that part of the world - Israel.

Sir Geoffrey Howe replied that he appreciated there were different views on the May 17 agreement.

It contains the important principle (he said) of full Israeli withdrawal. Whatever one's view of it, it should not become an obstacle to progress on the important issues. There can be no objection to alternative arrangements which have the agreement of all parties, and which must cater for the security of Israel's northern border.



Walters: Conference step in right direction

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab): What representations is he making, directly or through his European partners, to the Syrian Government on this vexing situation?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I saw the President and foreign minister of Syria not many weeks ago and we continue to make clear that they should be ready to make part in the negotiations necessary if we are to get an outcome in the Lebanon.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C): Recent events in Lebanon have made it increasingly apparent that one cannot advance towards a peace settlement in a piecemeal way. What steps is he proposing to advance towards a comprehensive settlement?

Talks between the Soviet Union and the United States in a

conference in which we and other countries take part would be a step in the right direction.

Sir Geoffrey Howe agreed that it would be desirable if the settlement in Lebanon could be set in the framework of progress towards more widespread agreement, but that serves to increase rather than diminish the nature of the problem.

Our position has been (he continued) to support all steps towards promoting discussion between the parties, with a view to a solution based on the principles that we have enunciated - the plain recognition of Israel's legitimate existence and need for security, and the plain recognition of the entitlement of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

On talks with the Russians, I am not persuaded that a conference of the kind Mr Walters suggests would be appropriate at this stage, but it was a subject I raised with Mr Gromyko in Stockholm a few weeks ago.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, L) said it was possible there would be renewed pressure on Palestinian refugees in the camps, particularly Chatila and Sabra, after the withdrawal of the Italian contingent.

This might be an issue that Sir Geoffrey Howe might raise with his United Nations counterparts.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: This is one reason it would help if there could be a larger role envisaged for a UN force. We have been putting forward proposals of that kind. The difficulty is that such a force must essentially be a peacekeeping and not a peace-creating one. It may be possible to secure an increase in the mandate.

Mr Kenneth Weetch (Ipswich, Lab): What does he make of the heavy movement of Israeli armour and personnel as reported in *The Times* today, together with the extensive Israeli air attacks on Muslim positions?

Does he also agree that as Syria and Israel are essentially client states of super powers, it would be

of advantage to peace in the area that a very high level diplomatic initiative be taken to include the super powers to underpin any internal political settlement in Lebanon.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said he understood Mr Weetch's concern about the nature and scale of recent Israeli troop movements.

They are entitled to be concerned about the security of their northern frontier (he added) but it must be remembered that the objective of the May 17 agreement was to secure withdrawal of Israeli troops.

That can be brought about only if there is a willingness on both sides to promote progress in that direction. That means willingness by Syria.

It might be that a closer involvement of the two super powers could help in promoting that process. That is why I raised the matter in my talks with Mr Gromyko. Mr Shultz did the same. But I remain to be convinced of the case for a wider conference.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the Minister has said the West must seek an understanding with the Russians on problems like the Middle East. What specific steps is the Foreign Secretary taking to secure the support of the Russian Government for the establishment of an enlarged United Nations force in the Lebanon and to get Russian understanding of any possible western military action in the Strait of Hormuz such as was envisaged yesterday and which, without Russian understanding, could be pre-empted with danger for the West?

Sir Geoffrey Howe said the Russian attitude to an enlarged UN role in Lebanon had been discussed at the UN for some time. There are (he said) likely to be informal consultations later today on the basis of a French draft resolution which is alongside the proposals we have been putting forward.

We are seeking to secure a helpful response from the Russians to that proposal but they must know that if

they go so far as to demand withdrawal of all United States ships from the area that would be unacceptable. We are seeking to find agreement on which the role of the UN can be enlarged in that area.

On the Gulf, I understand the importance of that point. It is right that if the situation required any further movements of a significant kind there, we should need to consider acquiring the Russians of our position.

Later, Mr Healey asked if Sir Geoffrey Howe was aware that yesterday (Tuesday) the Omani Government had joined other states in the Gulf cooperation council in warning the super-powers that any interference would be resisted at all levels.



Weetch: High level initiative needed

In view of the great danger of freedom of passage through the Straits of Hormuz (he added), what steps is he taking to discuss with the Russians the possibility of a joint effort to facilitate peace between Israel and her neighbours?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: The countries of Europe do have a distinctive position and contribution to make. We are certainly anxious to see if a solution can be found along the lines I have suggested. This is a subject which it is essential to discuss with the Soviet Union.

Howe has hopes on chemical weapons

DISARMAMENT

The Government hopes, in the course of further discussion to persuade the Soviet Union that its proposals on a treaty banning chemical weapons, including those of challenge inspection, were an essential complement to routine inspection arrangements.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said the Government believed it was important to make progress on a chemical weapons treaty.

Mr Thomas Clarke (Monklands West, Lab) had asked if the Foreign Secretary had seen in *The Times* that the Soviet Union had expressed grave reservations about the sincerity of the West in trying to reach agreement. This (he said) is a majority priority and of the utmost concern.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: There is no doubt whatsoever about the importance of this question. The United Kingdom has put forward a series of initiatives starting in 1976 and the latest last week. The United States have indicated their intention to put forward a further proposal next month.

We believe it is important to make progress here. We trust in the course of further discussion we will persuade the Soviet Union that the kind of proposals we have introduced, including those of challenge inspection, are an essential complement to the reviewing inspection.

He stated in other exchanges that there was reason to hope there would be advances from the Soviet Union at the Geneva disarmament talks following the positive step announced on Tuesday by the Soviet Union on continuous inspection of the destruction of chemical weapons.

Answering questions from Sir Peter Blaker (Blackpool South, C) about an official visit to Geneva, the Foreign Secretary said he had no plans to visit Geneva at present. However, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, addressed the conference on disarmament in Geneva on February 14 and laid particular emphasis on the importance of a total, worldwide ban on chemical weapons. As a further contribution to the negotiations, he introduced a draft of the series of British proposals on verification.

Sir Peter Blaker: He has the support of the House for these latest proposals the Government has put forward for a total ban on chemical weapons. This is one of the most important subjects on the disarmament agenda at present, especially in view of the enormous stocks of chemical weapons possessed by the Soviet Union.

Is there any indication of movement in the attitude of the Soviet Union towards the key question of verification?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I agree about the importance of a ban worldwide on chemical weapons and about the size of the stocks held by the Soviet Union.

We are able to welcome, at least at the outset, the positive step announced yesterday by the Soviet Union on the continuous inspection of the destruction of chemical weapons, stockpiles and other aspects have to be covered, including arrangements for challenge inspection.

MP seeks to safeguard union rights

If the Government really was bent on looking for spies and traitors, it might take a look at what was coming out of the schools and the Cambridge Union rather than any trade union. Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) said when he was given leave in the Commons to introduce a Bill which he explained would outlaw the kind of conduct the Foreign Secretary had engaged in over GCHQ.

His Trade Union Membership Rights Bill would prevent any employer, whether public or private, from taking action against employees for being members of a trade union.

He said if some MPs were interested about the implications on national security, the Bill would not preclude the possibility of special arrangements being made regarding the needs of national security without using the draconian resort of depriving staff of their trade union membership.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

When the Conservative backbench finance committee discussed next month's Budget on Tuesday evening there was no clash between wets and dries, no great debate between supply siders and monetarists, no argument between expansionists and consolidators. There seemed to be a tacit assumption that Mr Lawson's first Budget would have to be a neutral one and probably rather boring.

In one sense this must be reassuring for him. The worst burden for any Chancellor to carry on Budget Day is one of excessive expectations. Mr Lawson will have the comforting knowledge that his backbench supporters will not be looking for any dramatic policy initiative at a time when the British economic recovery has come faster than that of our European competitors and when inflation is still low.

But every Budget is a political event as well as an economic statement, and Mr Lawson will not want to convey the impression that the time has come when the Government has done a solid, boring job. In political terms, the Government needs a Budget that will both divert attention from its recent series of misfortunes and indicate that it has not lost its sense of momentum in the central area of public policy. In personal political terms, Mr Lawson needs to produce a Budget that will reinforce his reputation with which he came to office as a potentially radical, reforming Chancellor.

From one banana skin to another

As ministers have slid from one banana skin to another in the few months since their electoral triumph, there has been only one common feature in their varied predicaments: their inability to talk themselves out of trouble. The trouble itself, though, has come in very different forms. There is no common denominator in GCHQ, the Parkinson episode, capital punishment and MP's pay.

The sheer variety of the Government's embarrassments may to some extent be a relief to it. They do not point to a single flaw in its capacity, and therefore encourage the hope that all may come well with a change of luck. The misfortunes have all been essentially peripheral issues, and so are not a reflection on the Government's ability to perform in those fields which are critical to the reputation of any administration.

All might soon be forgiven and forgotten once the country's attention was focused again on economic questions. But public attention will need to be directed towards the economy, and that will not be achieved by a Budget that is worthy but dull. Such a Budget would also not be consistent with the expectations aroused by Mr Lawson's appointment.

Yet his freedom of manoeuvre would seem to be less than when he told the Conservative Party conference last October that the Government was committed to lower taxation "because it is the only way to keep our economy on the move". This suggested, that saw tax reductions as a means to future growth, not just a reward for that growth.

Windfall tax on the banks

But to make significant cuts while keeping to the borrowing requirement target to which he is committed, Mr Lawson will probably require larger savings in public spending than Mr Lawson has been able to persuade his colleagues to make.

So the talk now is of a Budget that will concentrate more upon tax reform than upon tax reductions. This was certainly the drift of the discussion at the Conservative finance committee meeting. The possibility of cutting the investment income surcharge, perhaps doing something about mortgage relief, removing other distortions and imposing a windfall tax on the banks - these were the topics on Tuesday evening.

Yet while a Budget of tax reforms may make good economic sense in the circumstances, that is not usually the stuff to send a shiver of excitement down the spine. There lies Mr Lawson's challenge. It is as much political as economic.

He will probably need to present a prudent Budget in such a way as to make it seem more daring than it really is. He can manage to do that, as will be an unexpected example to colleagues in an administration that is not strong in the art of explanation.

Britain seeking compensation for stranded lorry drivers

TRANSPORT

The British Government has already raised with the French Ambassador to Britain the need for the French Government to pay compensation to those British subjects stranded in France because of road blocks caused by French lorry drivers Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in reply to demands from MPs that compensation should be paid.

Mr George Foulkes, an opposition spokesman on European affairs said the British Government had not acted with sufficient urgency in the matter, but Mr Rifkind said he had made "wild accusations".

Mr Richard Tracey (Surrey, C) asked what action the British Government was taking to alleviate the plight of British lorry drivers and other British motorists stranded in France as a result of the industrial action of French lorry drivers.

Mr Rifkind replied: Consular officials have been touring the main areas of disruption contacting groups they know to be stranded.

They are providing cash against the usual understanding, where this is needed. Local inhabitants and French authorities have also been offering shelter and food. We have made our concern for the safety and welfare of British lorry drivers and other travellers very clear to the French Government both in Paris and to the French Ambassador here.

Mr Tracey: Will the minister make the strongest possible representations to the French Government to convey the condemnation of this House for the unbelievable action of companies in the United Kingdom is not a matter for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office but I will draw his remarks to the attention of the relevant Secretary of State.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Worcestershire, Lab): I have been approached on behalf of a router at Chamonix in South-West France reporting an incident in which a CRS, the French riot police, drove a British driver out of his cab with tear gas shells, that he was taken to hospital last night and discharged himself this morning.

This is a disgrace and the Government should be making the strongest representations to the French authorities about the incident and demanding assurances that it will not happen again.

Mr Rifkind: If that incident took place it would be a most serious matter and I am sure that his claim is investigated.

Mr Russell Johnston (Ipswich, Nairn and Lochaber, L) asked what was the insurance position on damage to lorries and whether cover extended to those suffering long delays.

If not, was there any possibility of the United Kingdom providing financial assistance?

Mr Rifkind: There is no liability on her Majesty's Government, but the question of compensation was raised by the Under Secretary when he saw the French Ambassador yesterday. He received no immediate reply but the Ambassador said he would look into it.

Mr John Farr (Harrow, C): What is he doing about the situation of small British exporting firms and hauliers in some financial difficulty? Will he look into the situation as a matter of urgency to see what help the British Government can give them?



Tracey: Unbelievable action of French lorry drivers

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Control of spending essential

EEC BUDGET

There would be no question of increasing "own resources" of the EEC unless there had been a satisfactory balance of agricultural and other expenditure and equitable financing, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons on Community matters.

The aim, he explained, was to make decisive progress, in solving the Community's problems at the March meeting of the European Council.

Asked to introduce legislation to authorize the suspension of future UK payments to the EEC if the promised 1983 rebate was not forthcoming, he said the Government was not in a position to do so at the moment. He said the Government was not in a position to do so at the moment.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C): At a time when we are being asked to accept cutbacks in expenditure on all sorts of desirable domestic projects, it would be wrong to suggest that there should be an increase in EEC resources for projects which in the main will be of no benefit to the British people.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: He is right to draw attention to one feature which is having increasingly doubtful importance in the discussions: the need for all Community countries to maintain the strictest possible budgetary discipline.

The objectives of the Community, not least that of a common agricultural policy, is a

policy in which this country has some interest. Our task is to secure a better balance of policies, firmer budgetary discipline and, above all, a fairer distribution of budgetary burdens.

Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on EEC affairs: The increase in own resources proposed by the Commission is not 1.4 per cent but a full 2 per cent of GNP. That sum, on the harmonized base used by Brussels, would represent over one-fifth of our total net receipts in Britain.

Mr Geoffrey Howe: The sum of that kind was proposed at that meeting. We are as concerned as Mr Cook is to ensure that any proposal for an increase in own resources is scrutinized with the utmost care.

It would have to be justified and no convincing case has been offered or reached beyond that there can be no increase in Community own resources unless there is a successful outcome on the need for effective control of agricultural and other expenditure and the need to establish an equitable financing mechanism.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C): At a time when we cannot even get our rebate back and are cutting public expenditure at home, how can we consider the possibility of increased European own resources? Is he considering what action would have to follow should the Government agree to subsidize an increase in own resources and this House throws it out?

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said the Government amendment stating that the most important way to overcome the problems of the young unemployed was with a general improvement in the economy. It welcomed the encouraging signs of economic recovery and recognized that

employment prospects for the younger generation would be greatly enhanced by the Government's considerable range of special employment and training measures.

He said every Labour Government had promised to reduce unemployment but had failed to do so. Labour had doubled unemployment.

The only way to provide proper employment was with a successful economy. Now, short-time working was lower and overtime at a high level. Numbers of those in work had increased in the third quarter. The picture was much more encouraging.

Mr Smith's remarks about the YTS pandered to the worst elements in the left-wing of the Labour Party which he determined to maintain its hostility.

Even in London, where there are 11,000 kiosks only a few hundred have been added, in most cases by putting more boxes next to an existing kiosk. However, it is the site owner who dictates whether more boxes can be added. British Telecom needs permission to put up kiosks.

British Telecom often rents the site and may also make

another payment beside on the number of calls it generates.

An outside kiosk costs about £2,500 to install, covering cable, connection, labour, equipment and the kiosk. Cast-iron design kiosks cost about £750, but new types being tested will be about half that price.

It is difficult to measure which sites are profitable, although the rural service would appear at first sight uneconomic.

About 10,000 kiosks earn less than £225 a year. Of those, about 4,500 - mostly in rural areas - earn less than £140.

Yet in 1979 only 32 were closed; in 1980 another 38; in 1981, 63 and in the last financial year, 29.

Motorway kiosks can earn more than £400 a year,

the booth (left), successfully tested in the North-west, North-east and London, is to be introduced, while the boxes are undergoing trials in London and Bristol.

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Customers will determine future of industry

HOUSE OF LORDS

A warning that the economic outlook for the late eighties and nineties looked very fragile was given by Lord Kearton (Ind) in a combined debate on heavy industry and on energy policy in the House of Lords.

He said: It seems crystal clear that our economic future will once again rest primarily on the strength of our manufacturing industry - our battered and reduced manufacturing industry where some 2,500,000 jobs have been lost in the last decade.

Looking ahead it seemed likely that North Sea oil production would start to fall in 1987 or 1988. The steepness of the fall would depend on what new oilfields were initiated this year and next.

The debate was opened by the Earl of Lauderdale (C) who introduced a motion on the need to transfer resources from heavy industries with high-cost output and surplus capacity, particularly in energy, into other sectors where future offered prospects of continuing demand, profitability and jobs.

He spoke of the possibility that negligence or political pressure might lead to a failure to extend let alone renew, electricity generating capacity, resulting in a return to the blackouts of 1947. Yet all that was being constructed now was no more

than a replacement of 20 per cent of capacity at eight sites. The outcome of the Sizewell inquiry - the biggest fiasco in history - was crucial.

Lord Colclough, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said the future of industry depended on greater adaptability, mobility and entrepreneurship. The Government's responsibility was to provide the right framework within which economic change could take place more smoothly and quickly.

The Government could not determine the process of change, still less its manner or location. The future structure of industry, and therefore the future pattern of employment, depended on individual choices made by employers, employees and, above all, customers.

It was when industries neglected to recognize and respond to their customers' needs that they were forced into decline and, conversely, growth and output followed success in meeting the needs of customers.

Phone boxes to get electronic facelift

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom is to re-equip most of its network of 77,000 public telephone kiosks with electronic models by the end of next year. Some will also have rigged visual display terminals to replace telephone directories part of a £66m refurbishment programme.

About 10,500 kiosks have already been converted. Canopies and various designs of kiosks using plastic, lightweight steel and aluminium are being tested to try to reduce costs and make the booths more attractive.

British Telecom said: "We are looking at ways of turning a loss-making business into one that makes money. That means providing a service people want to use."

Each kiosk loses about £1,000 a year because maintenance costs about £2,200 a year, and income is only about half of that. Thirty per cent of maintenance is attributed to kiosk upkeep, with most of the remainder for the equipment and cabling connecting it to the network.

But how reliable is the network and is its structure capable of meeting the needs of a modern mobile society? There are no comprehensive details on malfunctioning kiosks.

Most of those out of order have been vandalized, British Telecom says. But it refuses to reveal the amount of vandalism or how much it cost.

However, a report in the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?*, published about three weeks ago, disclosed that half of its sample of 700 had tried to use a public telephone box over a month. Forty per cent of them found that the first telephone they tried was out of order.

Telecom says that theft is the main cause. One of every 100 visits to use the new payphones, which will be similar to the type used in the new telephone 96 were due to vandalism. The older types were victims of "wanton vandalism".

Most kiosk sites are at least thirty years old.



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Royal commission calls for more spending to combat pollution

By John Young

An immediate reversal of the decline in government spending on environmental protection is sought in the tenth report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, published yesterday.

The report, which covers a variety of subjects including water quality in estuaries, the cleanliness of beaches, emissions from motor vehicles and power stations, acid rain and straw burning, states that control of pollution is not "an optional extra. It is a fundamental component of national economic and social policy, and has many international implications."

The commission also criticizes government delays in responding to its earlier reports. Like any other advisory bodies, royal commissions must accept that not all their recommendations will be implemented, but it is reasonable for them to expect that their reports will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible, it says.

Among subjects of recent public concern, the report identifies straw burning and the discharge into the sea of radioactive wastes from the nuclear fuel processing plant at Sellafield.

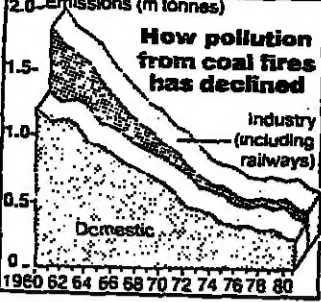
It recommends a ban on straw burning, to take effect in five years' time. The legislation should be introduced immediately to make it clear that research and investment in other methods of disposal could not be postponed.

The commission says that it would "not be appropriate" for it to offer a considered judgement on the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee and the National Radiological Protection Board. But it does recommend that the committee's terms of reference should be enlarged to include people with local government experience.

The report calls for the highest priority to be given an appraisal of alternative energy sources ready for a possible progressive shift from fossil fuels.

"We respect the fears that many people continue to express about certain aspects of the nuclear power programme", it says. "But until the United Kingdom has a secure and environmentally attractive alternative, it would be wrong to discard the experience and expertise gained from several decades of nuclear power development."

"We would therefore support a modest increase in nuclear power capacity as part of a strategy for reducing depen-



Tidal river quality in England and Wales, 1970-80 (%)			
	1970	1975	1980
Unpolluted	48.1	49.6	50.3
Doubtful	23.4	25.1	33.9
Poor, urgently needing improvement	16.8	14.8	7.9
Grossly polluted	11.7	10.5	7.9

dence on fossil fuels as a primary energy source and for reducing the polluting effects of their combustion."

Although the report devotes several pages to acid rain, which it describes as one of the most important pollution issues at present, it makes no detailed recommendations.

Instead, it supports further international research, although it also recommends that the Board should test the effectiveness of methods of reducing sulphur dioxide emissions.

Smoke emissions from diesel vehicles are in many circumstances at an unacceptable level, the report says. The Department of Transport should institute urgent research and other forms of technology to make the quality of emissions less dependent on maintenance standards.

Greater urgency should be given to developing simpler and more objective methods for smoke measurement at testing stations and at roadside spot checks. Local authorities should be empowered to take proceedings directly.

The commission considers it essential that there should be no increase in the quality of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and other carcinogens in exhaust emissions, and any steps taken by the Government to introduce unleaded petrol should avoid any such increase.

The water quality of some estuaries still gives cause for concern, although the commission's worst fears have not been realized, the report says.

The Mersey is the worst remaining blackspot. It re-

ceives, untreated, the domestic sewage, trade effluent and surface water run-off from the Liverpool and Wirral conurbations. With a population of almost 1,500,000, they comprise by far the largest urban area with untreated discharges.

Many bathing waters and beaches suffer from an undesirable degree of sewage contamination, the report says. The risk of serious disease is small, but the visible presence of faecal and other offensive materials can mean a serious loss of amenity.

The Government should set a date for ending the discharge of crude sewage. It should also reconsider the criteria used for identifying bathing waters under EEC directive, with a view to increasing their number.

The report also makes a number of recommendations for making more information available to the public.

"Secrecy fuels fear", it says. "A guiding principle behind all legislative and administrative controls should be a presumption in favour of unrestricted access... with provision for secrecy only in those circumstances where a genuine case for it can be substantiated."

Tenth Report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, Cmd 9149, (Stationery Office, £10.75).

Leading article, page 13



Wheels away: The Chelsea Pedlars bicycle polo team v Ascot All Stars at Ham Polo Club, in Richmond, south-west London yesterday. In April, the Chelsea Pedlars will be the first British team to compete in the Indian Interstate Championships in Delhi, before going on tour to Jaipur and Bombay (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Fishing ban forced by nets loophole

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

A loophole in regulations designed to conserve Cornish mackerel stocks had forced the Government to close from March 4 the South-West "mackerel box", which was designated a conservation zone as part of last year's EEC fisheries agreement.

It extends north from Padstow to the Pembrokeshire coast; west to within a few miles

of the Irish coast; south into the Atlantic and east to south of Bristol.

The regulations restrict most fishing other than with the hand lines used by local inshore fleets. They aim to curb the Scottish purse seiners which in past winters have plundered the mackerel grounds and sold their catches to foreign factory ships.

Because mackerel are a pelagic species, swimming close to the surface, it had not

thought necessary to ban bottom trawling for white fish. But in practice it had proved impossible to ensure that nets are trawled a sufficient depth to avoid catching large numbers of mackerel.

Last week, two Danish trawler skippers were each fined £17,000 for having too large a proportion of mackerel in their catches.

It is a sign of how much the fisheries issue has been defused

that EEC ministers are expected to agree readily on March 5 to the loophole.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food emphasized yesterday that there was no immediate threat to stocks. This winter's mackerel catch is expected to total about 200,000 tonnes, compared with up to 500,000 tonnes in past seasons. Although the ban on factory ships was lifted at the end of December, they have been much less in evidence this year.

Compromise on dumping of nuclear waste

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A meeting of 42 governments which signed the London Dumping Convention is moving towards a series of compromises on the disposal of radioactive waste in the sea.

Two issues have dominated the discussion at the International Maritime Organization in London. The first is what to do when a two year moratorium, agreed last year, on disposal of low level radioactive wastes comes to an end.

Proposals to be put to the meeting will include details for a technical working group whose findings will provide the basis of a decision on whether to allow low level dumping at sea to resume or to recommend countries to adopt land storage at sites which can be monitored continuously. More than twenty countries have indicated support for land storage.

The second issue concerns the handling of long-lived high level radioactive waste which comes from the defence and nuclear power programme.

Britain, the United States, France and Germany want it to be covered by the convention but still banned and research into the feasibility of sea-bed disposal conducted. The Scandinavian and Spanish speaking countries just want the high level waste prohibited, and no research which could be a foot-in-the-door to dumping.

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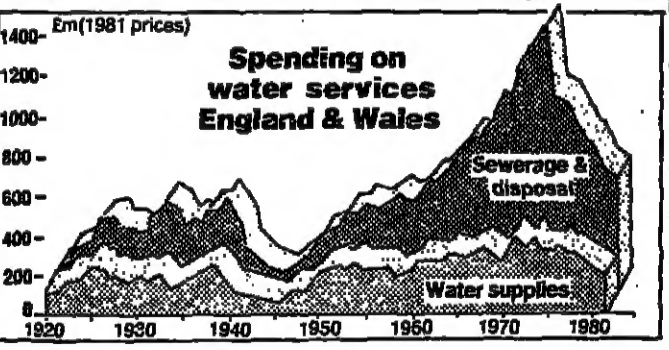
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Postmen's 'Bolshie' leader in job fight

A Post Office union leader nicknamed "Bolshie Bill" claimed at an industrial tribunal yesterday that he had been unfairly dismissed over his union activities.

Mr Bill Willoughby, aged 41 and a postman for 19 years, was



Mr Willoughby: "Threat of violence".

branch chairman of the Union of Communication Workers at the Western District sorting office in London, which was notorious for industrial unrest, the tribunal was told.

He was found guilty of a series of disciplinary offences as he "forcefully" pursued his members' interests. It was alleged. He was dismissed for allegedly organizing an unauthorized union meeting during the office's busiest time.

Mr David Griffiths-Jones, for the Post Office, told the tribunal that at one point Mr Willoughby faced five separate disciplinary charges in 18 months. One case followed an "unusually 45-minute row" over food hygiene in the staff canteen. "Willoughby was alleged to have threatened a member of the catering management with violence", Mr Griffiths-Jones said.

GP pays £4,000 for deaths of two children

A doctor has agreed to pay to pay £4,000 for the lives of two young children he failed to treat properly.

Dr Lulitkumar Nirmal, of Glen Rhyd, Coed Ewa, Cwmbran, Gwent, offered the children's parents £1,500, each plus £495 each for funeral and solicitors' costs in an out of court settlement. He did not admit liability.

Gareth Freeman died, aged 22 months, from bronchial pneumonia and a chest infection after Dr Nirmal prescribed cough medicine. Shaun Phillips, aged 2, died from gastro-enteritis after Dr Nirmal refused to send him to hospital.

A General Medical Council hearing last month decided to admonish Dr Nirmal after reading testimonials from other doctors and a petition of support from 500 patients.

Pianist faces ban over work in South Africa

Mr Malcolm Binns the pianist is likely to become the first British musician to be affected by a council blacklist on artists who have appeared in South Africa.

Mr Binns has been told by Camden that he will not be allowed to appear in the Camden Festival unless he undertakes never to accept another engagement in South Africa.

Details of his planned concert with the Camden School Orchestra have been included in the programme, which is largely paid for by the council.

London musical agents, fearful that the Greater London Council will introduce a similar blacklist.

Kohl prepares joint effort with Paris to ensure EEC summit success

From Michael Blayon, Bonn

Amid unusual secrecy Chancellor Kohl of West Germany appears to be planning a joint *démarche* with France to overcome the crisis now facing the European Community.

A flurry of meetings with European leaders by both President Mitterrand and Herr Kohl has raised speculation that the two countries are preparing a package that can be presented as a *fait accompli* to Mrs Thatcher.

For the Chancellor is determined to prevent a breakdown of next month's summit, and to show himself to his critics at home and abroad as a statesman able to transcend national bickering and give new impetus to the European ideal.

Perhaps more than any of its partners, West Germany sees its interests and identity defined by membership of the Community. If the EEC were to founder it would not only be an economic disaster for the Federal Republic, but also a political catastrophe. And as the prospects for success in Brussels look ever gloomier so German impatience is growing.

Herr Kohl told the national executive of his Christian Democratic Party (CDU) on Monday that Europe needed political unity. He said that after the elections for the European Parliament on June 17, the CDU would begin a new thrust to ensure that Europe did

not stick in its present state.

The Community could not have any value if in every stormy situation one member or another hinted it would leave. All members had to be asked whether they regarded their membership as irreversible, as West Germany did. The speed of the Community's advance could not be set by the slowest ship, he added, alluding to proposals after the fiasco in Athens for a "two-speed" Europe, with West Germany and the other founding members setting the pace.

Herr Kohl is probably glad to be able to raise his sights from the political strains within his coalition and direct attention to an ideal broadly shared by everyone in the country. Almost unnoticed Europe, and especially the ties to France, have become the priority in Bonn's foreign policy.

But Bonn does not have an easy course to steer. Closer links with France depend on resolving the tricky economic problems between the two countries, in particular the cross-border tariffs on agricultural imports from France into Germany.

And Bonn does not want to be drawn by Paris into supporting the French position on Britain's rebate at the expense of relations with London. Nevertheless, for historic and political reasons, West German is closer to Paris than to

London on Europe - in spite of a sneaking sympathy for Britain's case and a shared desire to see agricultural spending brought under control. Herr Kohl is convinced that France and Germany must be the dynamo to get Europe moving again.

He is therefore eager to revive the close cooperation that flourished in the days of President Giscard d'Estaing and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, but which ran into squalls when both countries changed political direction and economic policies were out of step.

An important element in this cooperation is defence. After years of virtually no interest in Paris, there has been a sudden flourishing of defence cooperation. This involves much more than armament technology and business deals and may soon include strategy deliberations by the experts. Bonn is eager to pursue this if only to try to reassure a nervous neighbour across the Rhine that West Germany is not going neutralist or weakening in its defence resolve.

Both sides' interests in coordinating their defence policies may have been sharpened by harsh hints from Washington that America was looking to Japan and the Pacific, and that Europe had better define its own interests in the Atlantic Alliance more clearly.

Galtieri faces the music



Former President Galtieri of Argentina (left) on his way to appear before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. The general was arrested on Tuesday on the presumption that he committed military crimes during the Falklands War. If convicted, he could be sentenced to death. (Douglas Tweedale writes from Buenos Aires).

More than 18 months after the last shot was fired, the commanders who led the country to defeat are going before a military court to be tried for their responsibility. Yesterday, the nine-member tribunal was questioning the former navy commander, Admiral Jorge Anaya. The president of the Supreme Council said it was possible that he could also be arrested after answering 15 questions the court had prepared for him.

Wild card in island election

Dismay in Grenada as Gairy steps out

From Trevor Fishlock, St George's, Grenada

On a roadside rock above St George's Harbour someone has lettered, in red paint, the word *Mongoose*, and has thoughtfully added an arrow. The arrow points to a substantial pink house with a red corrugated roof. Everybody knows who lives here, and everybody knows what *Mongoose* means. The word can still cause a shiver.

The *Mongoose* Gang was a sort of Tonton Macoute, a private cadre of thugs employed by Sir Eric Gairy during his demagogic rule of Grenada in the 1970s.

Sir Eric was in America when Maurice Bishop took power five years ago. Now he is back in Grenada, 62 years old, dapper in suits and ties, and the cause of some uneasiness. There are plenty of people, from the Governor-General down who are dismayed at his return.

There are to be elections by the end of the year and Sir Eric is testing the water, making occasional excursions from the pink house on the hill in the company of his bodyguard, Clarence. He has said that he will not stand for Parliament himself, but he has made it plain that if his candidature is successful he will have the reins.

As this little island, bankrupt and politically shattered, struggles to rebuild itself, Sir Eric is the wild card, with an undoubted capacity for mischief.

The American invasion has been presented, partly, as a restoration of democracy. But the truth is that even before the Bishop government Grenada experienced precious little democracy. Eric Gairy was a ruthless autocrat whose regime was propped up with the help of his *Mongoose* Gang.

There had been a time, though, when he was very popular. As a trade union leader in the 1950s he improved the conditions of thousands of workers on banana and cocoa plantations, securing land, housing and better pay for them. "Uncle Gairy" earned their gratitude and his Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), won the 1972 elections. When the island became independent ten years ago he was Prime Minister. But his autocratic style and bizarre behaviour angered people. Parliament met infrequently. He had to rise the 1976 elections to keep power.

It was not surprising that many islanders welcomed Maurice Bishop's coup as the removal of a rotten regime. They sang "freedom come, Gairy go, Gairy gone with UFO".

A handful of parties are being revived and founded. But no party can be described as organized at the moment, and the chrysalis politicians are barely known. Supporters of Maurice Bishop are trying to



Eric Gairy

salvage something from the wreckage of the New Jewel movement, but to a large extent Maurice Bishop was the party. The best-known political name in the island is Sir Eric Gairy, and GULP is the least disorganized of the parties. But would people vote for him? Soundings suggest his support would be very small - but these are early days.

Sir Eric has already held his first rally. He gave a rice and chicken lunch to several hundred elderly people bused in from the plantations. This is one of Sir Eric's traditional vote-winning devices. What support he has lies among these older people.

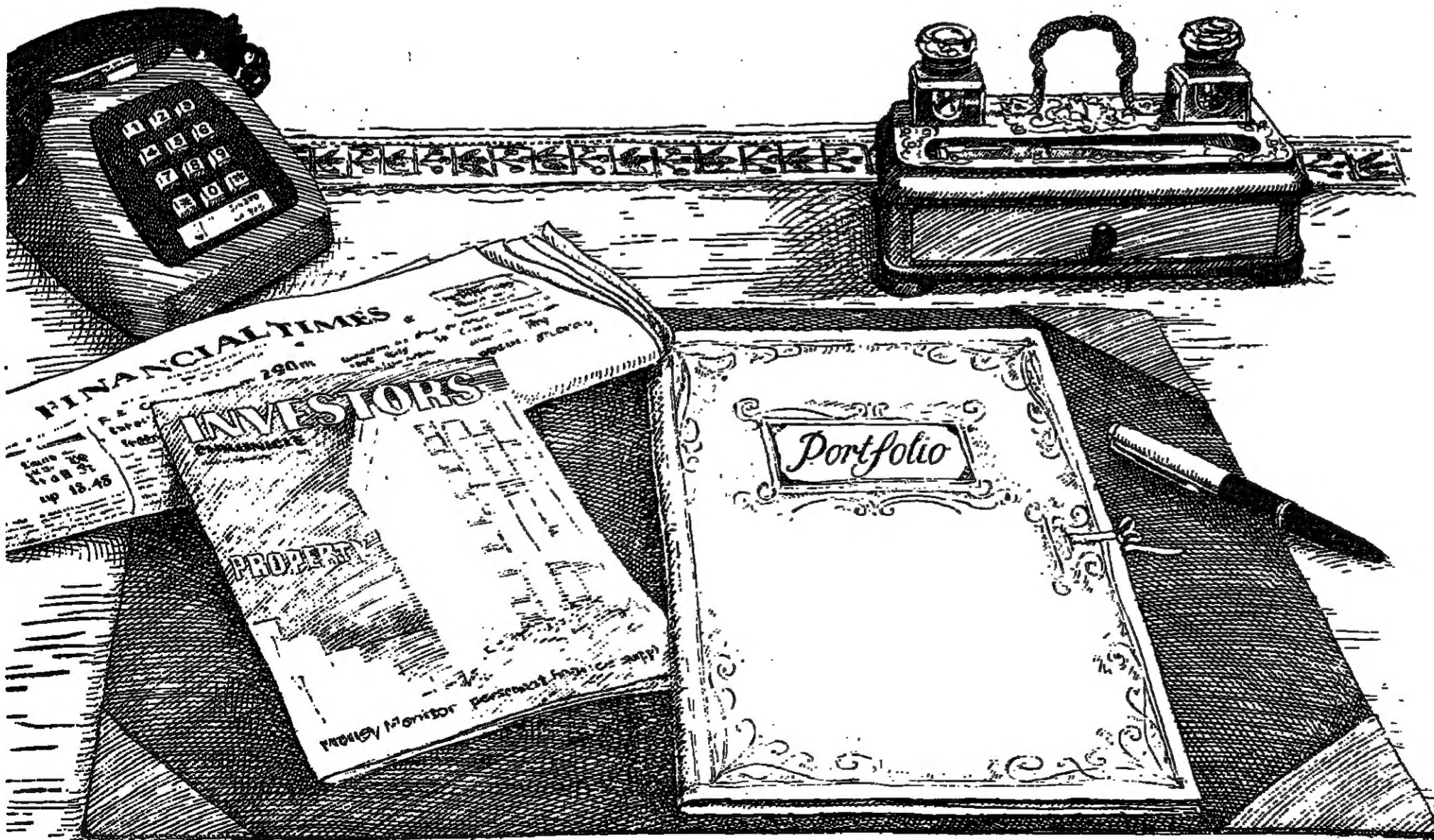
A young airline clerk said to me: "Young people won't vote for him. They know too much. But out in the country there are many who remember what he did for them and don't care about the rest."

Mr Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the interim government, takes a phlegmatic view. "I agree there is a long way to go in building the parties. No party other than Maurice Bishop's was allowed to operate for five years. But we should look on the election as a challenge. When the parties get into gear they will change the people's mood. It is their job to inspire."

"The election should be exciting. Whatever you think of Gairy, his presence will make things more exciting. He does not make me concerned and I haven't thought about his winning. I am not interested in the ideological complexion of the government elected by the people, provided the people have the right to change it. We should not be fearful."

Nevertheless, some people in Grenada are anxious. There is another slogan painted on a rock in St George's - "Gairy is trouble". It sums up what many people feel. But it remains to be seen whether Eric Gairy will emerge as a threat to the island he once ruled, or as just a bit player, a curiosity, in an extraordinary Caribbean drama.

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Albania protest in Athens

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Thousands of Greeks protested outside the Albanian Embassy in Athens yesterday against the alleged violation of human rights of Albania's Greek minority.

The demonstration came 24 hours after Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, issued a warning that although Greece nursed no territorial claims against Albania it would not tolerate those violations.

It was a significant policy reversal for the Socialist Government, which has been treating Albania with diplomatic kid gloves, to the extent of ordering the police last Sunday to remove forcibly two Albanian Greeks who were staging a hunger strike outside the Albanian Embassy in Athens to press a demand that their families be allowed to join them in Greece.

The police raid provoked an outcry. The opposition deplored the action of a government that showed excessive sensitivity toward the Albanian Embassy but often encouraged demonstrations against the American embassy.

Two hunger strikers were Mr Elias Lekkas and his uncle, Mr Spyros Lekkas, who escaped to Greece 22 months ago. Mr Elias Lekkas left behind a wife and child, whose whereabouts he does not know, and his elderly father, who is serving a jail sentence until the year 2003. Mr Spyros Lekkas left behind his wife and three children.

The two men were taken to hospital, but their relatives said they were still refusing to take food for the fifteenth day and were tearing out the needles inserted in their veins to fear them.

Fugitives have claimed that Albania has 400,000 Greeks in a population of two million. They allege that about 100,000 are in jail for political reasons.

A report by Mr D. A. Enright, British MEP for Leeds, to the European Parliament in November, 1982, spoke of the "regime of terror" imposed on Albania's Greek minority, and urged the Greek Government to raise the matter urgently with Albania.

Opposition in Spain to EEC terms

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Opposition is strengthening in Spain to the terms for entry into the EEC offered by the Council of Ministers this week.

The proposals, agreed by the ten after five years of argument, mean the prospect of another 10 years before full agricultural integration will take place. Spain's Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, is demanding an integration process much more fairly balanced between the agricultural and industrial sectors.

He is preparing an alternative package to be put to Brussels in the next few weeks, protecting Spain's backward industry and also the dairy, beef and cereals sectors.

A spokesman for the employers' confederation has urged the Government not to sign the 10-year terms, and the press is swelling the dissident voices.

El Pais, the independent daily, in an editorial, urged the ten not to insist on terms "bringing Spain to its knees". Public opinion might think there were alternatives, the editorial added. The statistics, however, indicated the alternative was stagnation if Spain turned in on itself. Almost half of its exports last year went to EEC countries, compared to less than 10 per cent to Spanish-speaking Latin America.

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Shaikh's murder fuels Shia resentment over Israeli occupation

From Christopher Walker, Jibchit, southern Lebanon

In this town of 8,000 Shia Muslims, young men were this week hanging a large colour portrait of their late religious leader, Shaikh Ragheb Harb - shot last Thursday by unknown gunmen - on the wall of the community centre under a giant picture of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Bearded and suspicious, the youths prepared, after intense whispered discussions, to talk about the latest assassinations in Southern Lebanon, where the occupying Israeli forces are facing mounting hostility from the Shia Muslim majority, most of whom are showing little inclination to join the militias which Jerusalem hopes may provide a buffer against the return of Palestinian fighters.

The growing resentment of the Shias is regarded as the most important element in the troubled situation in southern Lebanon, where Israeli troops face an average of 15 ambushes a week. Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Prime Minister, has given warning that if Shia terrorism should ever spill over the border into Israel, it would make Palestinian violence "look like child's play".

Shaikh Harb's cousin, a local French teacher, said: "No one has caught the killers, but everyone is convinced they were militiamen who cooperated with the Israelis. They think that this will stop the resistance to them, but it will only increase it. The people here are angry, even more than they are sad."

For miles around the hillside town, black flags hang in mourning for the murdered man, who since the Israeli invasion has established himself as a formidable leader of opposition to it, and one of the most hardline of the new breed of extreme clergy. All have been

inspired by the recent victories of Muslim and Druze militias in Beirut.

Two weeks before the Shaikh, aged 32, was hit by three bullets fired from behind his garden wall, he had returned from a spiritual journey to Iran. He was regarded by Israeli intelligence as having inspired a number of recent attacks, including murders of south Lebanese militia leaders prepared to cooperate and join the self-styled "national guard".

Within hours of his killing, Muslim fanatics attempted to run to the neighbouring village of Harouf, bearing his blood-stained corpse on a stretcher. They were greeted by a burst of fire from pro-Israeli militiamen, who wounded four and dispersed the rest.

Sympathy strikes followed which stretched from south Lebanon to west Beirut. The funeral was attended by more than 50,000 Shias, including Mr Muhammad Ghaddar, the spokesman of the Amal militia in southern Lebanon.

In a chilling interview in his house overlooking the port city of Sidon - the great majority of whose 150,000 citizens are Muslim - Mr Ghaddar spoke at length about how new recruits to Amal were being trained as fighting men prepared to die for the Islamic cause. "We do not take anyone. We have plenty of places in Lebanon to test whether they really are prepared to die or not."

The American-educated militia leader spoke passionately of the need for a complete Israeli withdrawal. He described the war as the "great jihad" of the Shia Muslims (85 per cent of the 700,000 people under Israeli control) who have been alienated in the 20 months since they first welcomed the Israelis for driving out the PLO.

which has used gun rule to dominate the south.

"Look," he said, pointing to the orange groves below, "they have been bulldozing our orchards for 50 yards on either side of the road because they think that will stop the attacks against them. They have also knocked down miles of the concrete walls which protected our crops from the sea winds."

Mr Ghaddar accused Israel of destroying the economy of southern Lebanon and refusing to accept assurances from the Shia community that its own militiamen were capable of preventing any PLO return after an Israeli withdrawal.

"We would be keeping them out for our own purposes, not theirs," Mr Ghaddar said. Israeli officers admit that since the recent fighting in Beirut, Amal is on what one described as the upswing in southern Lebanon.

The Shamir Cabinet is faced with the dilemma that only withdrawal is likely to defuse the resentment against the occupying army.

United Nations officials share the belief that Amal would fight to prevent a PLO return if the Israelis left. But they warn that if the bitterness fostered by the fanatical Islamic clergy - was to increase, the south Lebanese might be prepared to turn a blind eye to future PLO attacks on Israeli targets.

"When religious leaders like the late Shaikh Harb walk in south Lebanon today, the earth trembles under their feet," one UN source said. "They have filled a leadership vacuum north of the Litani River and are now a power the Israelis have to reckon with. When people take violent action here, it is often for religious, rather than patriotic, motives."



Spirit of '84

Iran threatens Basra road

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Iran yesterday launched its expected large-scale attack against Iraqi positions, and claimed to have advanced within artillery range of the main road from Baghdad to Basra.

There had been repeated reports of Iran massing forces

on the southern front for the past week. In the West, last week's clashes immediately south of Mehran had been seen as a preliminary feat, with the main attack expected further south.

and Iraqi sources confirm that this is what has happened, with the main thrust of the Iranian attack apparently made in the direction of the village of Ali al Gharbi. This lies roughly midway between Baghdad and Basra, where the road runs close to the border.

Air sweeps planned if Strait is mined

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Middle East Force of the United States Navy is sailing the Gulf as the West awaits an expected spring offensive by Iran against Iraq. The White House said President Reagan was committed to "do what is necessary" to keep open the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

Behind the rhetoric the Administration is not nearly so worried about the Iranian threat to the Gulf as it was a year ago but as a precaution it is keeping 30 naval ships in the Indian Ocean. They are matched by 26 vessels from the Soviet Union.

In addition a carrier battle group of between five and eight ships led by the Midway recently moved to the northern Arabian Sea within speedy reach of the Strait of Hormuz. In the Gulf itself the Middle East force comprises four or five ships - frigates and destroyers - headed by the USS Laffey, a specially converted command ship. The commander is Rear Admiral John Addams. The Pentagon insisted yesterday that the various movements represent "no significant change" from normal.

The Americans have contingency plans for moving in Super Stallion helicopters - (the CH-53E) for minesweeping if the Iranians carry out an offensive made threat to mine the Strait of Hormuz. The helicopters drag a sled across the water's surface - more thorough and faster than using minesweeper vessels.

Iran has also threatened to try to block shipping lanes by sinking large tankers at strategic points but with such deep and wide waters the operation would be difficult, if not impossible.

The border fighting between Iran and Iraq is regarded by senior US Administration officials as preliminary action before Iran sends tens of thousands of Revolutionary Guards into another seemingly hopeless offensive against Iraqi forces in the spring. If previous strategies are adhered to, the lives of many thousands of

Guards will be expended before the Iranians deploy the armed forces.

The skirmishes are taking place in the middle sector of the border, where the land is flat. American observers are mystified: an assault across mountainous border areas would seem to make more sense because the Iranians have only small fighting machinery.

US Government officials believe that the expected 1984 offensive by Iran may be a last serious attempt to break into Iraq - "The last unobstructed window of opportunity," as one official put it.

The reason centres on the construction of a crude-oil pipeline to Saudi Arabia, which would increase Iraq's export capability and rescue its faltering economy - thus enhancing its defensive capability.

At present Iraq exports only a fraction of the 3.4 million barrels a day it exported before the war. It uses a pipeline through Turkey.

Construction of the pipeline to Saudi Arabia has not started. When it does, according to American estimates, it will take 12 to 18 months to complete. No official American money will be involved but the administration is soothing the way for private American oil company investment. There would be credit guarantees. "Our strategy is to prevent an Iraqi collapse," a senior official said.

The US does not believe there is a serious danger of a military coup against President Saddam Hussein but he could be vulnerable if economic restraints caused shortages of basic items, or if the war took a bad turn. "We are not in love with the Iraqis," an administration source said. "We find them less hateful than the Iranians."

Total fatal casualties since the war began more than three years ago are estimated at 200,000 on the Iranian side and 50,000 for the Iraqis.

Shultz defends his Lebanon pact

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, is maintaining a vigorous defence of the May 17 Israeli-Lebanon agreement for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. "I am proud of it," he told a Senate committee on Tuesday night.

Mr Shultz negotiated the agreement, which Syria wants abrogated. He said that the pact was basically a good document. "People say that agreement is a great stumbling block to peace in the Middle East," he said. "Open your newspapers every day and I am attacked as if there is something wrong with me for supporting that agreement. What is wrong with reasonable security and total withdrawal for Israel, and the

prospect of a reasonable relationship with another country?"

Mr Shultz said the United States had told Arab governments that wanted Israel to withdraw from Lebanon: "Where is the key, you just have to put it in the lock named Syria and get them to withdraw and you will have accomplished your purpose."

He added that the Israeli decision to move some of their forces out of Lebanon last September set back the American efforts to press Syria to match the Israelis and agree to withdraw. The Americans wanted to see a unified, stable and sovereign Lebanon.

Sikhs kill 8 more Hindus in Punjab

Delhi (Reuters) - Violence between Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab state escalated as eight people were shot and killed by unidentified attackers in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and villages near by, the Press Trust of India reported.

It did not identify the victims or the attackers, but informed sources said the dead belonged to the Hindu community and their killers were Sikh extremists.

Seventeen people have been killed in random extremist attacks in the past two days.

Russia expels US tourists

Moscow (AFP) - Two American tourists, Meyer Schwieger and Michael Strick, were expelled from the Soviet Union for "attempting to indulge in activities of a pro-Zionist nature". Tass said. Both 34-year-old New Yorkers, they were put on the Leningrad-Helsinki train.

Jobless record

Brussels (Reuters) - The number out of work in the European Community at the end of January was 12,800,000 a record 11.5 per cent, but there were signs that unemployment was levelling out, the community statistics office said. The total was 400,000 more than at the end of December.

Cars economy

Colombo - Twenty Sri Lankan ministers who had ordered new Mercedes Benz cars and three other ministers who had bought Volvos have been asked by President Jayewardene to cancel their orders in line with the Government's austerity drive. The 23 cars valued at £315,000 before duty, will be sold to the public.

French Killed

Khartoum (AFP) - Twelve employees of a French consortium working on the Jonglei canal project in southern Sudan were killed when the lorry they were in ran over a mine on February 6, the Sudanese authorities confirmed. The mine had been planted by rebels.

Pullout check

Johannesburg - A small advance group of American technical personnel arrived in Windhoek, capital of Namibia to open an office which will help monitor the disengagement of South African forces from southern Angola.

Swiss miss

Zurich (AP) - Swissair has decided to begin training women pilots, saying "times have changed". But men on the long waiting list will get first priority. It is one of the last major airlines to allow women pilots.



London visitors: President Pertini at the Foreign Office yesterday with Mrs Thatcher. Behind is Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Pertini and Thatcher discuss EEC summit

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

President Sandro Pertini of Italy and Mrs Thatcher discussed next month's Brussels summit yesterday, soon after his arrival for a three-day official visit to Britain.

They also covered the Middle East and the urgent need for an East-West dialogue - a subject on which he feels strongly - over lunch at Number 10.

The president, who was writing foot on British soil for the first time, at the age of 87, must no doubt also have recalled the Second World War, given the presence at lunch of Major Brian Ashford Russell, an old friend and comrade in the Italian resistance. It was said to have been Major Russell who helped the

future president, a steadfast opponent of Mussolini, to make his way across Italy to join resistance fighters in Milan.

A Downing Street spokesman said the atmosphere over lunch was "very friendly" and referred to the President as "an extremely welcome and popular guest".

Later, President Pertini went to the Tate and the Italian Institute, where he opened an exhibition of paintings and met members of the Italian community in London.

Today he will lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace, visit The Times and go, with the Queen, to the "Genius of Venice" Exhibition at the Royal Academy.

Hope of chemical ban

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union, after apparently turning down a British initiative in the negotiations on banning chemical weapons, now says the two sides are not far apart.

It has emerged that the Russians are in favour of some kind of routine on-site inspection to verify compliance with any treaty agreed at the talks in Geneva.

Moreover, Mr Viktor Israe-



It's time for the new N.I. contributions.

Class 1 contributions for employers and employees
There will be no change in the percentage rates of contribution from 6 April. However, the lower and upper earnings limits are going up to £34 and £250 a week respectively.

Employers will pay 11.45% on earnings up to £250 for employees who are not contracted-out. For contracted-out employees they will pay 11.45% on earnings up to £34 and 7.35% between £34 and £250. These rates are inclusive of the 1% NI surcharge.

Employees who are not contracted-out will pay 9% on earnings up to £250. If contracted-out they will pay 9% on earnings up to £34 and 6.85% between £34 and £250. The reduced rate contribution payable by some married women and widows will stay at 3.85%.

New contribution tables are being sent to employers. If you haven't received them by 20 March contact:

- Your local social security office - for not contracted-out tables (CF391).
 - Contracted-out Employments Group, DHSS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX - for contracted-out tables (CF392).
 - Collector of Taxes - for NI Surcharge-exempt tables (CF398).
- Do not use the present tables for payment of earnings after 5 April.

Contributions for the self-employed

Class 2 flat rate contributions go up to £4.60 a week from 9 April. If you expect to earn less than £1,850 from self-employment in tax year 1984/85, you can ask for exemption from liability.

Class 4 contribution rate will stay at 6.3%. The new lower and

upper limits on profits or gains will be £3,950 and £13,000 a year respectively.

Voluntary contributions

Class 3 flat rate contributions go up to £1.50 a week from 9 April.

Full details of contribution changes

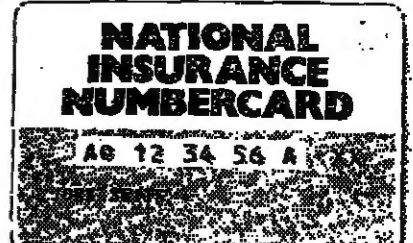
See leaflet NI.208 April 84, available from post offices and social security offices.

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)

Rates from 6 April 1984	Average Weekly earnings	Weekly rate of SSP
	£68 or more	£42.25 (standard)
	£50.50-£67.99	£35.45 (middle)
	£34-£50.49	£28.55 (lower)
	Less than £34	Nil - employee is excluded from SSP

For further information see leaflet NI227: Employers' guide to Statutory Sick Pay, and also the SSP information at the back of the 1984/5 contribution tables.

Please note that new-style plastic Numbercards are now being issued to school leavers and others to facilitate use of the National Insurance Number by both employers and employees.



White student leader tells Pretoria court of torture by security police

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A young white former student leader has given details of alleged torture at the hands of the security police, in hearings before the Pretoria Supreme Court, where he is suing 10 policemen for damages totalling 113,000 rands (£64,570).

Mr Auret Van Heerden, a former president of the National Union of South African Students, was held without trial in prisons in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Benoni from September 24, 1981 to July 9, 1982.

The events he described allegedly occurred on November 18, 1981. The day before, he had been warned by one of the policemen he is suing that the police had killed Steve Biko and had not been punished, and would not be afraid to kill a "small fish" like him.

Biko, the black consciousness leader, died from injuries received in security police custody in 1977. Mr Sydney Kenridge, who represented the Biko family at the inquest, is also representing Mr Van Heerden.

Mr Van Heerden told the court he was taken to a fourth-floor room in the security police offices, where he was interrogated from 8am to 6.30pm, with his right wrist handcuffed to his left ankle.

The police said they were not going to ask any questions and

expected him to volunteer information. Major P. P. Olivier struck him several times on the head to make him "think". He felt pains in his chest and could not breathe properly. He was given nothing to eat or drink.

After office workers in the building had gone home, the handcuffs were taken off, a canvas bag was put over his head and water poured over it. Mr Van Heerden said. Electric shocks were administered to the base of his neck.

"I screamed and I could not inhale. I started to flounder around the floor, gasping for a while while the shocks went on." The bag was pulled on and off, his body went into convulsions and he prayed he would pass out. The policemen stamped on his fingers when he tried to remove the bag.

After the shocks, which went on for about an hour and a half, Warrant Officer Lawrence Prince and Major Olivier held him in a striding position while Major J. N. Visser thumped him on the head and wrapped a bath towel round his neck almost strangling him.

During these assaults Mr Van Heerden was repeatedly asked to say who had recruited him to the banned South African National Congress and what methods he used to communicate with the organization.

(Membership of the ANC is a treasonable offence.) At one point, he alleged, he was grabbed by the hair and beard and knelt in the face by Warrant Officer Prince. His testicles were squeezed and the soles of his feet were beaten with sjamboks.

The assaults continued until 10pm, when he was taken to the lavatory by Major Olivier. He took off his shirt, showing his back covered with bruises. This apparently upset Major Olivier. "He had tears in his eyes, which surprised me. He said I should cooperate and gave me tips on how to answer the other policemen."

Mr Van Heerden said he then decided to make a statement, because he feared that, if subjected to a second bout of torture, he would "die or suffer permanent injuries". He still had nightmares about his imprisonment and was undergoing psychotherapy.

He feared assassination. His house had been attacked several times by unknown people, as had his brother's house. His car windshield had been shattered.

Several of the policemen he is suing were involved in the interrogation of Neil Aggett, the white trade unionist found hanged in his security police cell in February 1982.



Golden moment: The Mahre family of Scottsdale, Arizona (Phil, Holly and 17-month-old Lindsey) admiring their latest arrival, Alexander, who was born at almost the same time as Phil was winning the Olympics slalom Gold Medal in Sarajevo.

South Africa prays for rain

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Prayers for rain were said throughout South Africa yesterday after a request from the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, that Wednesday should be set aside as a day of atonement and intercession.

Racecourses were closed, and government offices, businesses, restaurants and shops gave time off to employees to attend

special church services, to which it is hoped the Almighty will respond by breaking the drought.

The summer rains began promisingly in November and December, bringing relief after last year's drought, which was one of the worst this century. But the rain has stopped, leaving most dams much less

than half full and spelling disaster for this year's maize crop.

The chairman of the Maize Board, Mr Crawford van Abo, said yesterday that, for the first time in South Africa's history, imports would this year exceed local production. This could entail an import cost of up to 1,000m rand (£570m).

When underdogs fell out

Prophets without honour at home

In the last four articles on the decline of Eurocommunism, Edward Mortimer and Mario Modiano explain the obstacles to its development in Greece.

In the brief and shadowy history of Eurocommunism, Greece occupies a special place — not because Eurocommunism was especially successful there but because, well before the term was coined, Greece had produced a separate Communist party which perfectly fitted the description.

This arose from the special circumstances of the struggle against the colonels' dictatorship, which coincided with the first stirrings of what later became Eurocommunism in Western Europe — notably the reaction of Western communist parties to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

The "internal" leadership of the Greek Communist party (KKE) — that is those directing the struggle inside Greece, including at that time the composer Mikis Theodorakis — came out against the Soviet invasion and in support of their Czech comrades, led by Alexander Dubcek. But this position was repudiated by the official leadership of the party in exile, which was based in Bulgaria and heavily dependent on Soviet support.

This issue combined with the usual tensions that arise between those living under occupation or dictatorship and those who try to give them orders from abroad, resulted in a split. The Eurocommunist wing of the party became known as the KKE-Interior.

One might have thought the group based inside the country would have greater popular support, but when the junta fell in 1974 and both communist parties were legalized it was the old official leadership, returning from exile, that established itself as the "real" KKE. In most people's eyes. For after all, where if not in Moscow can certificates of authentic communism be issued?

The KKE-Interior, like other Eurocommunist parties later on, had difficulty in defining its identity and distinguishing itself from other left-wing groups. In fact, until 1981 it chose to fight elections as part of a broader front and in that year, campaigning for the first time under its own colours, it polled a mere 1.69 per cent (compared to the official KKE's 10.92 per cent) — not enough for a single seat in Parliament.

It did rather better, however,

EUROCOMMUNISM Part 4 GREECE

In the elections held simultaneously for the European Parliament, winning 5.15 per cent (compared to the KKE's 12.68) and one seat. This was no doubt because, unlike other left-wing parties including Mr Andreas Papandreu's Pasok, it unequivocally supported Greek membership of the EEC.

Accordingly, the party now is preparing actively for next June's European elections, hoping again to do better than in a national poll and helped by the charismatic personality of its single MEP, Leonidas Kyriakos — an orator so fascinating and convincing that he has one supporter even among Greek conservatives.

One reason adduced by analysts for the limited appeal of Eurocommunism in Greece is the intensity of the passions stirred by the civil war of 1944-49, which led to a polarization with little room for nuances. For the average Greek communist, who was the political underground for 30 years after 1944, the world was black and white, divided between the United States and the Soviet Union. They feel they cannot afford not to side with Mother Russia.

That feeling, needless to say, has been assiduously cultivated by the official KKE leadership and by its Soviet backers, who treat the breakaway party as worse than fascist. President Andropov's recent death gave the Greek Eurocommunists their first opportunity in years to contact the Soviet Embassy in Athens which had systematically ignored them. The party signed the embassy's condolences book but sent no one to the Moscow funeral.

But more important, probably, is that the potential Eurocommunist electorate is preoccupied by Pasok, with its left-wing and American brand of socialist rhetoric. Between Pasok and the official KKE there is not much space. Hence the Eurocommunists have little mass support, except among students, who often team up with anarchists and various non-aligned groups.

Concluded

Unions back Duarte in Salvadorean election

From John Carlin, San Salvador

Almost the entire Salvadorean labour movement has opted "openly and decisively" to support the Christian Democratic (PDC) candidate, Señor José Duarte, in the presidential election due on March 25.

Señor Duarte and other PDC leaders have signed a pact with the chiefs of the union umbrella organization, the Popular Democratic Union (UPD), in which both sides agree to join forces in the political battle "for better living conditions, for peace and for an end to the Salvadorean crisis".

The UPD, which is the near Salvadorean equivalent to the TUC, has 500,000 members, 20 per cent of El Salvador's voting population.

In the document, not yet officially released but disclosed to *The Times* yesterday, the Christian Democrats agree should they win the election, to give union members key posts in government economic areas.

In exchange, the UPD has promised to provide support, in both personnel and money, for the PDC electoral campaign. There is a big UPD demonstration, for example, scheduled for two weeks before the election.

The UPD has also said it will collaborate in supervising ballot boxes on election day, a not irrelevant function in a country where electoral fraud has been something of an institution in the past.

The Christian Democrats, a social democratic party by European standards, is considered "communist" by its main election rivals, the Nationalist Republican Alliance party (ARENA).



Señor Duarte: Deal on government posts

The labour organizations' comprehensive backing of the PDC will no doubt shake ARENA's presidential candidate, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson. But the right too, appears to be boosting its forces at the moment.

Diplomats have added to recent speculation in political circles that two of the six parties in the election may form a coalition with ARENA in exchange for a guarantee of cabinet positions for their presidential candidates in a future government.

The two parties, the right-wing Salvadorean Popular Party and the Salvadorean Independent Party, are too small to stand any chance of winning the election on their own but their support for ARENA in what promised to be a very close race, could prove decisive on election day.

The consensus here is that an ARENA victory will be followed by fierce repression of the organized labour movement.

Nicaragua poll advanced for fear of US attack

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

The announcement by the Sandinista Government of a November 4 election means that Nicaragua should be able to install an elected government two days before President Reagan begins a second term of office if he wins the US election.

A president, vice-president and a constituent assembly of 90 deputies are to be installed in Managua on January 10.

Western diplomats here expressed little surprise that the Sandinistas had brought the elections forward some six months from the date most observers had expected.

They said there was genuine concern among the nine *comandantes* who have governed the country since the revolution in 1979 that the danger of American intervention would be far more real during a second Reagan term.

There was greater surprise at the announcement that the voting age is to be 16 years, and not 18 as announced by the *comandantes* in January.

In a country where more than 60 per cent of the population is under 21 and most young people support the Sandinistas, the enfranchisement of 230,000 more teenagers is sure to increase the bitterness of opposition parties.

They have accused the Sandinistas of ignoring their own electoral proposals and stage managing the process to ensure their own victory. Señor Luis Rivera, president of the Democratic Coordinating Committee, the opposition umbrella organization, said: "The elections are being fashioned to keep the Sandinistas in power indefinitely".



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The Territorials

Peking hint of summer agreement as talks on Hongkong resume

From David Bonavia, Peking

The ninth round of talks between Britain and China over the future of Hongkong got under way here yesterday with the Chinese side apparently optimistic about reaching a general agreement by the middle of the year.

Sir Richard Evans, the new British Ambassador, would not comment on the substance of the talks. Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hongkong, attended as usual.

A Chinese official said the talks were progressing smoothly, and it was hoped that agreement would be reached by July. China has previously said that it will announce its own solution if there is no agreement by September.

The Chinese negotiating team is headed by Mr Zhou Nan, a senior Foreign Ministry official. Mr Ji Pengfei, the former Foreign Minister who is in overall charge of the nego-

tations on the Chinese side, said recently that he thought "substantial progress" could be reached during this round of negotiations.

In addition, the Chinese media have been regularly praising Hongkong's economic strength and prospects. Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman, has visited the border town of Shenzhen, which has numerous business links with Hongkong, and looked across the river into the British-administered New Territories, the lease on which expires in 1997.

The Chinese Government is showing considerable satisfaction with the progress of Shenzhen and other "special economic zones" set up adjacent to Hongkong and Macao to attract capital from those territories and from overseas.

The idea evidently is to work on the "ink-blot" principle, with Hongkong exporting its technical, managerial and commercial expertise to Shenzhen, as well as providing capital for joint ventures and processing agreements.

Observers see this as helping to guarantee Peking's promises that Hongkong will retain its present commercial, legal and social system for 50 years after formal surrender of sovereignty by Britain in 1997.

Chinese government organs in Hongkong, such as the Bank of China and the New China news agency have been taking a high profile lately, entertaining local businessmen to cocktail parties and hosting a banquet for the Governor.

It seems that Peking is anxious not to repeat the mistakes of last September, when friction over Britain's proposals for continued administration of Hongkong were met with indignant denials.

Brunei ban on Crown Agents may be lifted

From David Watts, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

The Crown Agents have taken another slap in the face from Brunei. After the removal of about 23 million invested with the agents last year, Brunei has now banned them from bidding for government contracts.

It is understood that the ban has been in effect since last October and will last for six months. The agents have appealed to the Government against the decision of the Brunei Tender Board. A representative of the agents recently flew here from Singapore to intercede. Brunei has given no reason for the ban, but it is believed to be under review.

It all seems to stem from yet another misunderstanding between the two governments at a time when it appeared that relations were finally on an even keel after the acrimonious negotiations on the continued presence of the Gurkhas was reached last September.

"It is a question of a decision taken on two facts," according to an informed Brunei source. "If 20 facts had been considered, the decision might have been different."

Hopes are high that the ban will be lifted soon amid the aura of goodwill created by Prince Charles at the independence celebrations, which begin tomorrow.

Prince Charles arrived yesterday afternoon, looking tired after the long flight from London. He was driven to the Central Padang for a formal welcome from the Sultan, Sir Nida Hassanal Bolkiah, and a review of troops.

Heavy rain over the past few days has drenched the famous polo ground at Jerudong, so the Prince could only manage a brief canter yesterday. There are hopes of a match later in the visit. The Prince is staying at the Polo Club house.

Polo and banquets apart, Brunei's celebration of nationhood will be more than mere merrymaking. It provides the ruler of the newest Asian country, Brunei, in a group for the first time.



Royal handshake: A Brunei nobleman greeting the Prince of Wales yesterday.

Zia hopes to hold elections in October

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan said here yesterday that he hoped elections would be held by the end of the year.

He was speaking at Islamabad airport before leaving for Brunei to attend independence celebrations. General Zia told a German journalist on Tuesday that he would arrange the National Assembly poll in October before Provincial Assembly elections. The politicians would also prefer it that way.

The President said the transfer of power to an elected government would be completed by March, 1985, according to the German journalist.

General Zia yesterday said he had not yet taken a final decision on the nature of parliamentary elections. He has several options. But the important question is whether to allow the political parties to participate, or hold what he described as Islamic elections, without the parties.

He made clear that he would ensure that only those who came up to his standard of integrity and character would be permitted to compete. Associates of the former Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali, would, by and large, be kept out of the elections.

General Zia said that the ban on student organizations and unions would continue.

US in 'cordial' talks with Vietnam

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Senior American and Vietnamese officials have completed in Hanoi what appear to have been the most cordial and fruitful meetings the two nations have had since the end of the war in Vietnam nine years ago.

Mr Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of Defence, said on his return to Bangkok yesterday that the talks with Mr Nguyen Co Thach, Vietnam's Foreign Minister, were exclusively about the 2,490 American servicemen still unaccounted for in the war.

Vietnam agreed to resume regular meetings between American and Vietnamese technical experts which ended last year after comments by the US Government which Vietnam found objectionable.

for in the war.

Vietnam agreed to resume regular meetings between American and Vietnamese technical experts which ended last year after comments by the US Government which Vietnam found objectionable.

Final appeal fails in dingo case

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

Mrs Lindy Chamberlain's last avenue of appeal against her conviction for the murder of her baby daughter, Azaria, at an Ayers Rock camping site in 1980 was closed yesterday when the High Court in Canberra failed to overturn her conviction.

The court ruled by a majority of 3-2 that guilty verdicts should stand against Mrs Chamberlain and her husband Michael who was convicted of being an accessory after the fact.

Throughout the case the Chamberlains have protested their innocence, and said that their baby was taken from the family tent by a dingo. Mrs Chamberlain, who will be 36 next month, will continue serving her life sentence in Darwin's Berrimah jail, where she has been since last May, when bail was refused by the High Court.

The Chief Justice, Sir Harry Gibbs, Mr Justice Mason and Mr Justice Brennan rejected the Chamberlains' appeal. Mr Justice Murphy said that the guilty verdict should be set aside and both the Chamberlains acquitted. Mr Justice Deane also said that the guilty verdict should be quashed.

The majority decision was reached after more than two months' consideration and was contained in a 53-page joint judgment written by Sir Harry Gibbs and Mr Justice Mason.

"I would like to affirm that Lindy and I are innocent people," he said. "We will continue to fight to clear our name and the name of our



Mrs Chamberlain: 'Only available hypothesis'

family. This case is not over yet."

The judgement said that it had been established beyond reasonable doubt that apart from her elder children, Mrs Chamberlain was the only person who had had an opportunity to kill Azaria.

The possibility that a child killed the baby having been rejected, only two possible explanations of the facts remained open—either a dingo took Azaria or Mrs Chamberlain killed her.

"Therefore, if the jury were satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that a dingo did not take the baby, they were entitled to accept the only other available: that Mrs Chamberlain was guilty of murder."

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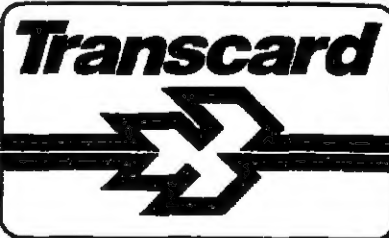
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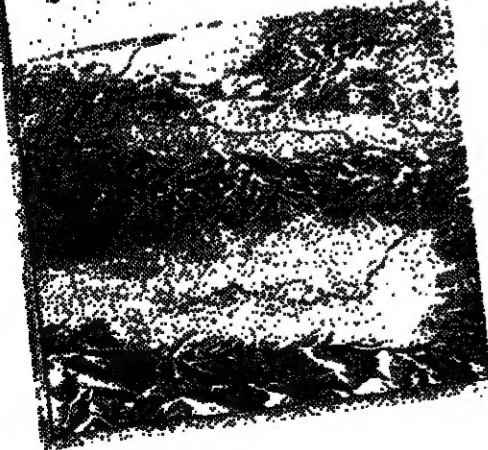
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SPECTRUM

At the feet of the master

It is quiet in the rehearsal room. Light comes across the roofs of Covent Garden. The corps de ballet lool on the floor against two walls. In one corner there is a grand piano with a pianist. Along another wall various well-known dancers wait, one drinking Pepsi-Cola and reading a book. Along another, on folding chairs, sit the notator, the designer, the assistant to the choreographer, and the choreographer, summons the soloists to the centre and mimes their positions. The music begins and the dancers hurl themselves together. The choreographer returns to his seat. He walks with an unusual glide, the visible legacy of a dancer's training.

At 21, Kenneth MacMillan leapt across the cover of *Ballet* magazine. Soon after, he hung up his ballet shoes for good. "Everyone thought I was mad", he says, "but I couldn't wait to get off the stage." That was in the early 1950s but the reason he disliked being a dancer still gives the best clue to his subsequent work as a choreographer. "I was getting non-interpretive parts, just sheer technique. And that bored me silly."

Sir Kenneth MacMillan, knighted last year after 30 years with the Royal Ballet, is recognized as king of the dramatic ballet, the kind where the dancers are not used, in his words, like "typewriter keys" but as "human beings". Pure technique bored MacMillan as a dancer (as well as terrifying him) and when he became a choreographer he determined to take ballet into new areas. "I felt I was in the theatre, and in general, ballet didn't reflect all theatre can do."

This attitude has made MacMillan enemies among purists who believe it is the very limitations of classical ballet which define its strength. For them, drama weakens its essential nature. Such critics look to Balanchine as the true master of modern classical ballet. Despite a long and successful association with such an establishment as the Royal Ballet, MacMillan still seems beleaguered. He says: "Whatever I have done, I have always felt a rebel."

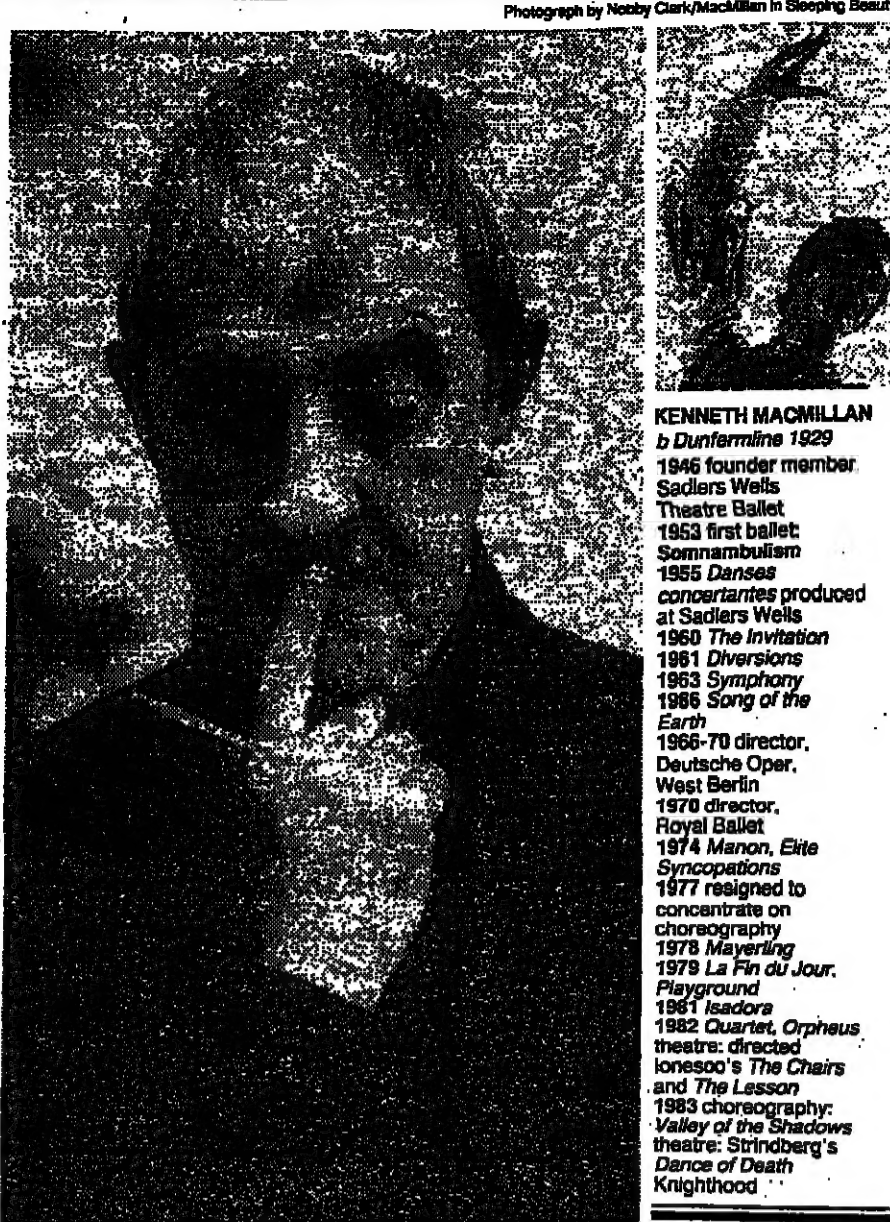
He could have added "outsider" too. Kenneth MacMillan was born in Dunfermline, Fife, in 1929. When he was five his father, who had been gassed in the First World War, lost his money in a chicken farm and they moved to Great Yarmouth to live with his grandparents. The family was "very

The Times Profile: Kenneth MacMillan

working class" - his father had been a miner before the war. MacMillan learned about ballet at the local library, where he spent much of his time. Nijinsky and Fred Astaire became heroes. He listened to classical music on the wireless. (Surprisingly, he has never learned to read music, preferring to "respond to the emotions of the music rather than the mathematics of it"). Then came the war and evacuation for his grammar school and digs in Nottinghamshire. However, as he points out wryly, they returned home for the holidays. "Violence and war is a whole part of my childhood." On the first day of his first holiday his much-loved mother died. This left him with an embittered father, and two much-loved older sisters, one of whom was deaf. By the end of the war, ballet had become a secret obsession. (Even now he describes himself as very secretive). It was then he wrote under his father's name asking Ninette de Valois to accept him at Sadler's Wells school.

"Obsession" and "emotion" are two words that figure largely in Kenneth MacMillan's vocabulary. They sound odd coming from a man whose immediately obvious qualities are gentleness and quiet. In the rehearsal room he uses no demonstration of physical energy to control and command his sometimes large and ebullient forces - 18 marching boys during one session. A very soft clap is his loudest expression of power. The art of gentle persuasion is very important when the body is being pushed to its physical limits. Commands to establish star Wayne Eagling and new star Alessandra Ferri, such as "Kiss to the beat of four", are obeyed as if for a stage performance. But immediately afterwards the scene diffuses into general giggles, in which MacMillan himself joins.

Although the real MacMillan only emerges in the rehearsal rooms, we meet to talk in his house in Wandsworth. It is a large family home inhabited by his beautiful wife Deborah, who paints, their daughter Charlotte, aged 10, who "flirts with ballet", various other relations and two noisy dogs. The household presents an



KENNETH MACMILLAN
b Dunfermline 1929
1946 founder member
Sadler's Wells
The Royal Ballet
1953 first ballet
Sonnambulum
1955 Dances
concertantes produced
at Sadler's Wells
1960 The Invitation
1961 Diversions
1963 La Fille du Roi
1964 The Earth
1966-70 director,
Deutsche Oper,
West Berlin
1970 director,
Royal Ballet
1974 Macbeth, Elite
Synchroscapes
1977 resigned to
concentrate on
choreography
1978 Mayerling
1979 La Fille du Roi
1981 Isadora
1982 Quartet, Orpheus
theatre, directed
Kenneth MacMillan
1983 choreography:
Valley of the Shadows
theatre, Strindberg's
Dance of Death
Knighthood

everyday kind of scene. Yet the only book in the sitting room is entitled *Ritual and Seduction*. It lies on a gigantic opium bed which dominates a chorus of dramatic Eastern decorations. "Bought in the King's Road", comments MacMillan. He is a tall man for an ex-dancer. Dame Ninette de Valois refers to him in her memoirs: "Now promoted to the second company from the school is a thin, tall boy of great talent, by name Kenneth MacMillan." That was in 1946.

Dame Ninette was always MacMillan's patron. He describes those early years as "the first time I was with people whom I could talk to about the things I really felt". He was 15, an orphan, living in digs. It was she who encouraged him to try choreographing in the Sadler's Wells Choreographic Workshop. Dramatic works like *The Invitation* and pure dance works like *Symphonia* made him the natural successor to Sir Frederick Ashton. Yet

MacMillan, although an admirer, had no intention of following in the great man's footsteps. His aims were different, turning away from the fairyland of *Sleeping Beauty* and trying to express his own view of people and the world. He disliked the elitism of ballet, which he felt was removed from real life. He cites *Look back in Anger* in 1956 as an important inspiration.

Naturally enough these views made him controversial and in 1966, despite such successes as *Romeo and Juliet*, he left the Royal Ballet to be director of the Berlin Ballet. He needed to be in a world which was not so constrained by the tradition of classical ballet.

These three German years were another period of lonely isolation for MacMillan - even though he took with him several English dancers, including his own discovery, Lynn Seymour. He

has referred to a breakdown he suffered at this time after the death of his sister in a car crash. Indeed his image as the tormented loner lasts until his marriage in 1974. Nevertheless he continued to create ballets, including a one-act version of *Anastasia*. He returned to the Royal Ballet as director in 1970 for a very long seven years. Since then he has regularly produced ballets of which obsession, self-destruction and sheer horror have been major themes. "I find the tragic more interesting than the comic."

The new ballet which I have been watching in rehearsal and which will be premiered tomorrow (sponsored by Citicorp Bank Ltd) is no exception. It is called *Different Drummer* and based on Buchner's *Woyzeck*. MacMillan arrived at the subject through his production of Strindberg's play *Dance of Death* in Manchester last year, which stimulated his interest in expressionism.

The play is made up of fragments which can be variously ordered but MacMillan has moulded them into a continuous flow. It was the imagery of the play that attracted him and the ballet has the compulsive, nightmare feeling of a painting brought to life. The crazed Woyzeck is danced by Wayne Eagling with an exhibition of non-stop movement which leaves him gasping. "It's the running", he explains. The drum major is danced by Stephen Jeffries and Woyzeck's beautiful but disloyal love by Alessandra Ferri. *Ritual and Seduction* are here made into dance. At one point Ferri becomes Mary Magdalene washing the feet of Christ. The music, *Verklärte Nacht* by Schoenberg, dictates the almost romantic feel of the piece, preceded by Webern's *Pavane*. MacMillan likes the "shock" that comes with transition from one piece of music to another. The visual inspiration comes from painters such as Munch, George Grosz and pictures of the First World War. His father is not forgotten. "Sculptural" is a word MacMillan uses to describe his ballet.

MacMillan feels ballet should be open to the cross-currents of other art forms and not fossilized in a mould set some 30 years ago. He himself had admired and assimilated Balanchine's work in the 1950s - something he feels some critics are only just doing now. "A lot of ballet critics have become stuck in an arrested emotional development of the time when they first saw *Swan Lake*... It's funny how I seem to threaten the way they feel about ballet. I'm not trying to pull it down. I'm just going in another direction." He suggests the short history of British ballet, a mere 50 years or so, as a possible explanation of this sensitivity. At the moment the most classical of all sequences, the fourth act of Petipa's *La*

Bayadère is playing in the same bill as MacMillan's horrific picture of holocaust, *Valley of the Shadows*. "Take someone off the street", says MacMillan, "and which ballet would they find most peculiar?" To those who criticize his "step backwards" into the past with such lavish pieces as *Manon*, he states firmly, "What's important is that it's about the human condition."

The dancers for whom he principally creates have a strength of character which reflects his thoughts. "That looks dangerous", he says calmly as Alessandra Ferri drops head downwards from a great height. Her response is to do it again. In the rehearsal room he allows them to join in with ideas, describing it as a "sort of improvisation". Anything else would be like "painting by numbers". In this way, and indeed in his use of time within the structure of his ballets, he has more in common with a film director than the traditional choreographer who strings steps together. It is no coincidence that many of his ballets have been successfully filmed, including an award-winning version of *Mayerling* by London Weekend Television and a new version of Brecht/Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* by Granada to be shown this Easter. Granada also made *A Lot of Happiness*, which showed him choreographing a new ballet. He took nearly as much interest in the position of the camera as the dancers. After ballet, theatre, and after theatre, films?

However after *Woyzeck* he is to direct a Tennessee Williams play, *Kingdom of the Earth*, at the Hampstead Theatre Club. It fits once more into the emotional, obsessive MacMillan category. But Sir Kenneth is not so easy to label. Just before I left Wandsworth he casually drops the information that the 1986 ballet for Covent Garden will be *The Prince of the Pagodas* with Benjamin Britten's music. In case I hadn't got the point, he adds genially, "A fairy-tale. With tutus."

"Will it?" gasps his wife. "I didn't know that." "It's a classical ballet", responds MacMillan firmly and adds in explanation, "After so many dramatic ballets I have to go back to my roots again to revise what I think about classical dancing."

It is another development in the career of a man who in his efforts to express emotion has stretched the classical vocabulary about as far as it will go.

"Some mothers may even be able to bring their children to it," says Sir Kenneth, not exactly threateningly.

Rachel Billington

moreover... Miles Kingston

The cars which come with the built-in clients

Today we proudly present our first-ever motoring supplement - a guide to all the new cars that have appeared on the market in recent months, with performance notes and expert summing up.

Austin Mitchell. The Austin Mitchell is a splendid little run-about model built in Britain which, though not particularly glamorous, gets through a terrific amount of work. Very popular in the Westminster, though not with the Government. Versatile, adaptable and, with more speed, could be a winner. Much featured on television, if not very recently. Highly recommended, but read the small print carefully.

Newcastle Metro. This Geordie product cost a tremendous amount of money in the development stage and many people said it should not be built at all, but now everyone agrees that it is absolutely wonderful, even if nobody seems quite sure what for. The only drawback seems to be that it will not work more than ten miles outside Newcastle, but if you live in the middle of Newcastle and don't get

about much, this should prove no problem. David Jensen. A small, zappy sports model. American import. Uncomplicated, pleasant.

It calculates the cost to the client

Fiat Justitia. The first ever car made specially for lawyers. The furnishing is de luxe, with leather upholstery, leather bookshelves, well-stocked drinks cabinet and servant in attendance. It is equipped with concealed cameras which, in case of an accident, will immediately record conclusive and damaging evidence about any other vehicle involved. What will appeal most to lawyers, though, is the sophisticated computer-meter which calculates the cost to the client of any mile driven whether on business or not. We had it test-driven by a lawyer for an hour in central London and he pronounced it quite satisfactory, though not till about five months later. He charged £140 for the service.

Renault Nevada. Another model which may be of use

to lawyers, this provides an instant divorce and no questions asked. The makers only guarantee it for two years, after which it may break down at any moment. There is ample room for any amount of children, but only one parent.

Chateau Talbot. A pleasant, quiet classy red model, which seems to get better as time goes on. The revolutionary glass body gives all-round vision, but is dangerous in accidents. The cork front end has a safety lead lining: this has so far escaped criticism from the environmental lobby.

Lancia's "Monarch of the Glen". A sturdy Victorian-styled model which is widely seen in Scotland. Not pretty but effective.

Pearl or clear and plugs into mains

Mazda 100w. Available in pearl or clear this model is one of the revolutionary electric types now coming on to the market. Beautifully streamlined. Main disadvantages are that it has to be plugged into the mains. Also in 40, 60, 150 and 200 watts.

Nine Men's Morris. A new estate car from Morris, this is ideal for team expeditions for any game involving nine players. Unfortunately, the only one they have discovered so far is rowing (eight men plus cox) and there is no accommodation for oars or boat.

Bedford Commercial de Luxe. This stylish model, the so-called Woburn, is not particularly different from other super-vans, with one exception: each model is personally driven by the Duke of Bedford, with whom the driver can then have a private dinner afterwards. Bring your own napkins.

Opel Suites. Luxurious new German model in distinctive square shape and five different flavours: lime, strawberry, orange, strawberry and strawberry. (Next week we road-test the flashy new yellow French car, the Citroën Pressé).

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: History of technology

The value of junk

Whether or not Henry Ford seriously dismissed history as junk, he certainly had a high regard for historical junk.

because he amassed the largest collection of steam-powered artefacts in the world at his museum in Dearborn, in Detroit. Ford can thus be regarded as one of the first and most successful practitioners of industrial archaeology, that branch of the history of technology concerned with the examination and interpretation of the physical evidence of industrialization. The value of such evidence - even for the comparatively recent history of the Industrial Revolution - is now widely accepted, and it has stimulated important research in such subjects as the development of iron and steel processes, the typology of textile mills, and the evolution of artisan housing. It has also encouraged the growth of exciting new open air museums, as well as many interesting ventures in local industrial history in more traditional museums.

Steam study

The steam engine, in all its forms, has been a major subject for investigation by historians of technology. The Newcomen Society, the leading British organization in the field, was founded in 1920 and took the name of the inventor of the first commercially viable steam engine, Thomas Newcomen. Since then, members of the society have explored intensively the evolution of steam power as it can be reconstructed from both the documentary evidence and the physical remains. This year it will be observing the centenary of Charles Parsons' invention of the steam turbine, one of the significant milestones in the history of modern power technology. The research unit at Bath has assembled a unique photographic record of the stationary steam engine, based on the collection made over many years by George Watkins, classifying many hundreds of such machines according to type, function, and manufacturer.

Listing monuments

The centre at Bath has also pioneered the recording of other industrial artefacts from all parts of Britain in an attempt to establish a comprehensive re-

cord. This has now been incorporated in the National Monuments Record of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) as part of its recognition of industrial monuments as a significant part of the national heritage. A similar awareness has become apparent in other organizations such as the National Trust, which has developed Sial Mill in Cheshire as a specialized industrial heritage site.

Giant age

Engineers have played a vital part in the process of rapid industrialization over the past two centuries, so that interest in them, both individually and collectively, has become a prominent feature of studies in the history of technology. It is a curious fact, however, that most recent works of biographical



Watt, left, Telford, top and George Stephenson

To the letter

More has been written about J. K. Brunel, the "Little Giant" of nineteenth-century engineering, than most other British engineers, but his life and work continues to fascinate and to invite new historical perspectives. Attempts have been made recently to reassess his relationships with colleagues such as John Scott Russell, and with the army of contractors and assistant engineers who worked for him. The picture emerges of a man who, for all his great qualities, was something of a slave-driver and aloof disciplinarian towards those under him. Even on projects like his railway ventures in northern Italy he maintained a meticulous supervision over his distant subordinates by a stream of letters and detailed instructions.

R. A. Buchanan

scholarship in this field have returned to the period of canal and railway building before 1860 for their subjects. James Watt, Thomas Telford, the Stephenson, and the Brunels, have thus come to represent an "Age of the Giants", since when engineers have largely lost the distinction of individual fame and the acknowledgement of posterity. They have grown in numbers and in influence through their specialized institutions, but at the price of comparative anonymity and loss of status - a problem addressed by the Finniston Report four years ago, without producing an entirely satisfactory historical explanation. The search goes on.

Hot-air talks

Energy is another central concern of the history of technology. The phenomenal success of the internal combustion engine burning oil fuels has been one of the most important processes in the history of technology in the past 100 years, and one which has spawned many historical and contemporary problems. Members of ICHTEC, the International Committee for the History of Technology, will be meeting in West Germany in the autumn to discuss some of

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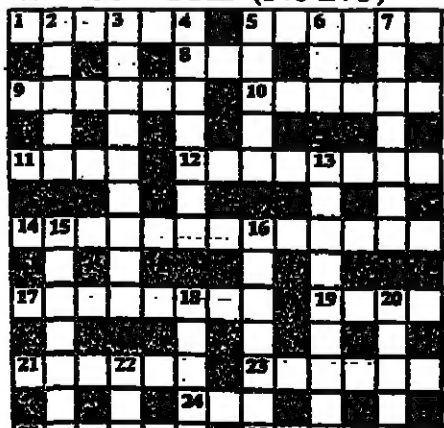
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11 Attar oil (4)
12 Young scout (3,5)
14 Supplies chief (1,3)
17 Height (8)
19 Large-horned goat (4)
21 Additional number (6)
23 Berber (6)
24 Sound appreciation (3)
25 Combiner (6)
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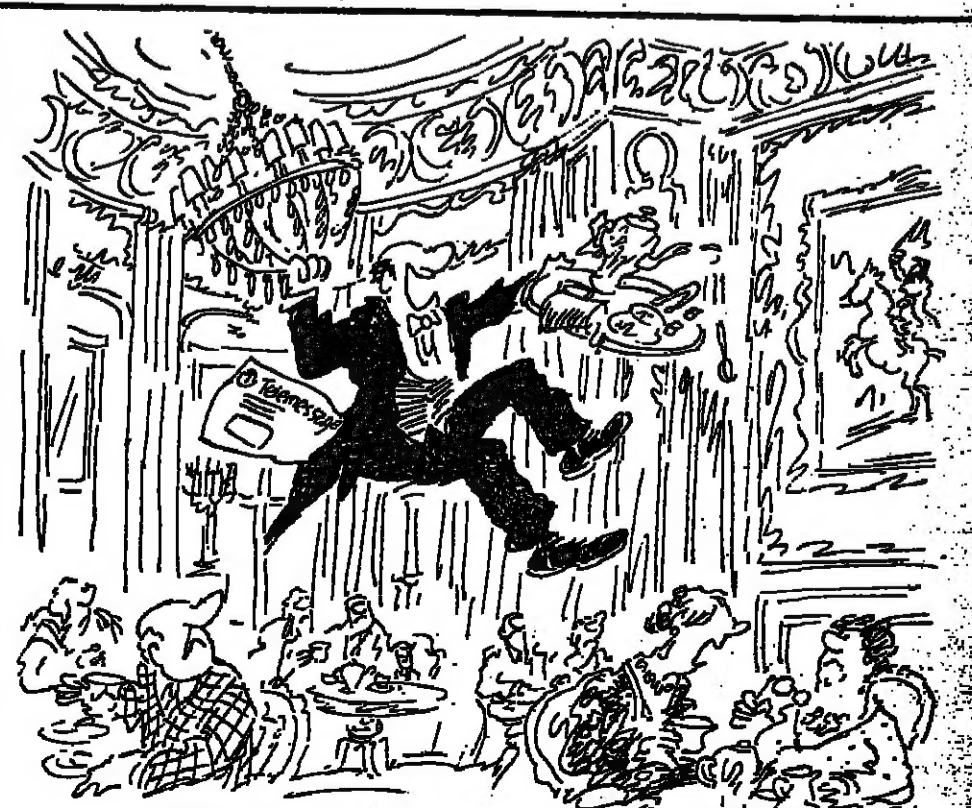
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2 Rising agent (5)
3 Miscellaneous (3,6)
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5 Hydrogen bomb (1,4)

- 6 French king (3)
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13 Chastise (9)
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- 16 Distinguished musician (7)
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THE ARTS

Television Country converse

For the next 11 weeks Central will be giving Wednesday evenings a tranquil touch with Edith Holden's *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. But it is not just her quiet converse with nature we will be getting. A dramatic reconstruction of her life, which means that imagination has taken over where facts fall short, has been added.

So, apart from Miss Holden's observations on the Warwickshire flora and fauna, we get flashbacks to her childhood and her family life. It is a technique that can be troublesome but this adaptation by Elaine Feinstein and Dirk Campbell - he also directed - survived the first episode well. Whether it will become compulsive is another matter.

Last night found Miss Holden, played by Pippa Guard, in the bosom of her family on New Year's Eve, 1906. There was a large family, with seven children, and only mummy was absent. She had died two years previously and father, bless him, was still heartbroken. Edith, who apparently conversed beyond nature, too, brought him consolation with some frenzied spirit writing which showed that mother, though unalive, was well.

Two of her brothers, who disapproved of her father's Edwardian values - he had a philanthropic approach to labour relations - promise discord later, but on the whole the mood was fairly idyllic and certainly redolent with nostalgia. The nature photography, by the specialist Ted Channell, was beautiful. Somehow a cup of cocoa seemed appropriate with it.

Tranquility reigns also in the three-year-old marriage of Gillian Lynne, 52, theatre director and choreographer of *Cats*, and Peter Land, 30.

They met in *My Fair Lady* in 1979. She thought it would be a long affair, but not that she would marry her. She only agreed after exhaustive explanation of the disadvantages of marriage to a much older woman.

She had made too much of it, he said. Success continues for her but not for him. He told John, Pitman, who pops his timely questions in BBC1's *The Other Half* without appearing - which always makes me warm to an interviewer - that he did not mind. She said that when Peter's career took off he would step back. Money? Well, it was a family business, therefore it was family money. She had this image of herself being put out to grass one day, but it did not seem likely.

The trouble with *The Other Half* is that one always wonders, despite the camera candour, if there is not another half. But nosiness, even with consenting adults, can, I suppose, be pushed too far.

Dennis Hackett

Cinema: Geoff Brown reports from the Berlin Festival and (below) Joan Goodman meets Anne Bancroft, star of *To Be Or Not To Be*, which opens in London tomorrow

Computing through a kaleidoscopic jungle

There is no excuse for thumb-twiddling at the Berlin Film Festival: Monday alone offered 113 separate programmes, running from nine in the morning until the small hours. British delegates arrived for last Friday's opening variously armed with vitamin pills, hefty scarves and thermal socks. We should also have brought portable computers to tame the schedule's jungle. The basic festival machine, however, is as awesomely efficient as ever. True, some ushers rule their cinemas with torches of iron, but there is no shortage of friendly faces: where else but in Berlin would you find a respected director like Rudolf Thome helping in the lobby, dispensing soft drinks and earphones?

No translations were necessary for the competition section's opening attraction, Ettore Scola's *Le Bal*. This confident transcription of the Theatre du Campagnon's stage spectacle describes the fortunes of a ballroom and its denizens solely through dance, music and pantomime. For a time the method beguiles, but the sense of pleasure is slowly nibbled away by the lack of variety and close human observation. Despite all its excited gestures and kaleidoscope of popular songs, the film (a French-Algerian co-production) has a cold heart.

The same might be said of Maurice Pialat's *A Nos Amours*, though here the bleak climate is deliberate (the soundtrack, indeed, features a Purcell morsel called "The Cold Song"). As before, Pialat's subject is youth, but the equable temper that shone through *Passe Ton Bac d'Abord* in 1979 has now turned prickly. The teenage heroine (played with mesmerizing ease by the unknown Suzanne Bonnaire) struggles to combat an hysterical mother, a thuggish brother, an absent father (Pialat himself) and her own emotional immaturity. There are some misjudgments - when characters fly off the handle, the director follows suit - but this is still a film of sticky sensibility, a talent desperately deserving wider recognition.

Outside the competition, a thousand flowers bloom: films from the Mediterranean, films with tango dancing, German camp, Dutch angst, video allstars, American titbits like *Gore Vidal: The Man Who Said No* and *The Curse of Fred Astaire*. Some of us spend



Pantomime of dance-ball denizens in Ettore Scola's *Le Bal*

whole days gazing in Ernst Lubitsch's silent, showing in the retrospective section with ingenious piano accompaniments (Richard McLaughlin, from Britain, is among the relay team). The most trumpeted archival event, however, has been the presentation of F. W. Murnau's classic version of *Dracula*. Nosferatu, screened in a restored tinted print. The original 1922 score is played live on stage: Hans Erdmann's music is properly crepuscular and gloomy - xylophones rattle, the brass bray ominously - but the level of invention wobbles alarmingly, particularly when set beside the beauty and terror of Murnau's images. The new tinted print enthroned these to

perfection: Max Schreck's Nosferatu tottered towards us in glory - a malevolent drapine with skeletal hands, goblin ears and a skewed head. Among the riot of new celluloid, two films deserve special mention. Aline Issermann's *Le Destin de Juliette*, a striking first feature, displayed rare dramatic tact and an excellent eye for visual composition, though the script ultimately fell into bad habits (a loveless marriage, a drunken husband, a noble wife: we have been here before). The festival's biggest visual treat, however, has been *The Village of Mist* by the Korean director Im Kwong-Tae, best known for *Mandala*. The story revolves round a young teacher

and the local ruffian, who scampers about the tightly-knit community like a licensed satyr.

And so to the future. Prospective pleasures include John Cassavetes's *Love Streams* (the closing attraction), *Crackers*, by a Frenchman in America (Louis Malle, *Les Voleurs de la nuit*), by an American in France (Samuel Fuller) and a portrait of Dietrich by Maximilian Schell. Britain has sent two competition entries, both due in the West End soon: *Champions*, the biography of the jockey Bob Champion, and Ronald Harwood's backstage drama *The Dresser*. The German title for the latter is *Ein ungeheures Paar*. It almost sounds naughty.

'Maybe you're going to see more of me and less of Mel'

Someone once said of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers that he gave her class and she made him sexy. It would be nice to say of Anne Bancroft and her husband Mel Brooks that she gives him class and he makes her funny. In fact, she is funny on her own.

"People forget that my first

big success was in a Broadway comedy, *Two for the Seesaw* [it won her a Tony award]. But the film of *The Miracle Worker* [for which she won her Oscar] came along, and because of that people started sending me dramatic scripts. I didn't do much comedy after that."

When discussing *To Be Or Not To Be*, which opens in London tomorrow and in which she and Brooks star together for the first time, Ms Bancroft recalls: "I like it better every time I see it. I've seen it six or seven times. The first couple of times I saw it, I never saw anyone but me. I think it was about the fourth time, I turned around to Mel and said, 'Oh, you're in it too, you're very good.' She lets out a bubbling laugh.



Anne Bancroft: "The most beautiful thing"

Brooks so long to work together? "Well, I did a cameo in *Silent Movie*, Bancroft says. "But it was really a question of this favourite film coming along as Mel's next project and of the timing being right. I'm extremely fussy about scripts. I think no work should happen until the script is absolutely perfect. However my husband, as a director, will often direct with the theory that we'll fix it up with the acting and the direction. When I first saw the script the only part I looked at was my own. I said, 'I'd like this fixed and can I have a better line there and can I have a better scene here and all that stuff.' So my part is absolutely wonderful. That's the advantage of sleeping with the producer."

Like many actresses of her generation, whose film careers began during the twilight of the Hollywood system, Bancroft acquired a jaundiced view of her profession. Despite acclaim

for her performances in *The Pumpkin Eater*, *The Graduate*, *The Elephant Man* (produced by Mel Brooks's company) and others, Bancroft herself derived little pleasure from her work and frequently fled Hollywood for the stage and Broadway.

"Making films was largely an unhappy experience for me," she says. "So *To Be Or Not To Be* really came as a revelation. It was the first time I thought, oh my goodness, you can work and you can have fun. Working with your husband is more difficult than working with a stranger, but at the same time the rewards are much greater. When it was good he was loving it and I was loving it, the thrill was enormous. And when he hurt my feelings, you know, the hurt was greater than it would be with a stranger."

According to Bancroft, life chez Brooks is a volatile affair in any case. "When I hear Mel's key in the lock, my heart

flutters. It's true. He's such a party. Remember when you were a kid and company came? That's what he's like."

Clearly the formula works since Brooks and Bancroft have been married for 19 years. Though Bancroft's image as an actress is the opposite of Brooks's boisterous, deliberately vulgar clowning, that as she shows in *To Be Or Not To Be*, is just an image.

One of the highlights of *To Be Or Not To Be* is its opening sequence, where Bancroft and Brooks sing and dance "Sweet Georgia Brown" in Polish. "Mel came home and told me the idea and we laughed hysterically. Then I thought, how the hell are we going to learn it? There's a wonderful saying: 'Inch by inch, life is a cinch - yard by yard, it's very hard'. I had my kid put it on a T-shirt. And that's the way we learnt the song. We sat with a teacher every day and learnt one line a day. At the end of a month, we not only knew it, we could get up and sing it. The next month, we put a dance to it."

Though *To Be Or Not To Be* received generally good reviews in America, the main praise was for Bancroft, with some reviewers expressing doubts about Brooks's ability as an actor rather than a comic. Did this cause problems between the couple? "No, because we discussed it and I said to Mel, I think this is the best work as an actor you've ever done. He thinks it was too. He worked harder and deeper and more consistently on a character than he'd ever done before, so he'll be all right. That's what sustains you, you know. Of course what other people say is important. And it can be hurtful. People say you don't take it personally, but you do. That's when you know you can't even listen to what's being said. You have to rely on yourself."

MEL BROOKS & ANNE BANCROFT

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

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Bach Choir/ Willcocks

Hereford and the Three Choirs heard William Mathias's vast new choral work, *Lux Aeterna*, in 1982: on Tuesday, the Bach Choir and London Symphony Orchestra, who are about to record the work, presented its first London performance with soloists and the Choristers of St George's Chapel, Windsor, under the baton of Sir David Willcocks.

There was a certain sense of occasion, it is true; any such gathering of forces is bound to ensure that, but the celebration seemed less in honour of Mathias, in his fiftieth birthday year, than of the ceremony of composers who, be it consciously or subconsciously, are paraded before our ears.

The work is a well-crafted, sturdily sustained collage of Mass texts, Marian anthems and Campbell's translations of St John of the Cross. It is also, and more distractingly, a collage of remembered voices, some leaping out to be caught, others, annoyingly, slipping just out of sight. There is Britten,

at the tinkle of a tubular bell; there is Elgar, genuflected to the latter-day demon voices of the "Libera me"; there are rumblings of Bartok's *Bluebeard*; even, and then, at last, in the climactic Gloria, a swagging voice of real Welsh hwy!

It is the more pity that the work forces one into obsessive fingerprint spotting, as its writing is workmanlike, its intentions clear, its verse settings courageous, and, in the hands of Felicity Lott, Margaret Cable, and Penelope Walker, sometimes distinctive. But the polarity of ideas on which it is based, combined with its heavy echoes, weigh it down with a literalness which soon numbs the listener.

Where Mathias's work seemed to be a task set and conscientiously worked through, Debussy's too rarely performed *La Damoiselle elue* was music of spare necessity and spontaneous response. As a delightful herald to the forthcoming Pre-Raphaelite display further upstream, his austere sensuous cleansing and raising up of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's poem was sung with tender ecstasy by Felicity Lott.

Hilary Finch

English Echoes Purcell Room

The effect of the work of James Joyce upon the music of this century has been far-reaching, stretching as *The New Grove* tells us, to the open-ended form of Boulez's Third Piano Sonata. But, strangely, many of the composers represented in the English Echoes concert on Tuesday seemed to have experienced difficulty in setting his words to their own music. Perhaps Joyce's spoken music is, after all, enough.

Stewart Hutchinson, the group's fine accompanist and compiler of its programmes, had obviously done some painstaking research for this occasion. Of the five Moeran settings he chose, only one, "Strings in the earth and air," beautifully sung by Jean Rigby, rose with its spicy harmonies above tameness.

Bax's aggressive "Watching the needleboats" - one of several songs taken from *The Joyce Book*, the collection published in 1932 - was delivered with fire by Fiona Dobie, but neither of the Bridge settings served to enhance the words and Howells's response

in his "Flood" seemed all too stormily obvious.

And so it was left to foreign composers to match verse with music of comparable originality and naturalness.

Samuel Barber managed it best. The anger of "I hear an army" was unleashed vehemently by Gordon Jones, while the passion of "Rain has fallen" (Miss Rigby) and the twilight elegance of "Nuvoletta" (Miss Dobie) captured exactly the right flavour. And Szymanowski's "Gentle Lady" showed Andrew King to be deeply sensitive to the composer's marvellously apt music.

Otherwise he gave an equally moving reading of Britten's version of Yeats's "The Sally Gardens" while Ronald Corp's specially commissioned *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* for four singers, came close to the idiom of Britten's Canticles but lacked their natural cohesion.

William Relton provided the spoken links; his reading of Joyce and others was impeccable, but his delivery of the rest of the script could have sounded more natural.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre

The Playboy of the West Indies

Tricycle

Just as Chekhov's landed gentry recently turned up unharmed in the West of Ireland, so Synge's Mayo villagers are now washed up unscathed on the coast of Trinidad. The least you can say of Mustapha Matura's creole version of *The Playboy of the Western World* is that it proves the claim of Synge's title: the play is not confined to Ireland.

As for larger claims, it is clear that Mr Matura, besides annexing a fresh masterpiece for the West Indian repertoire, intended to bring out colours that were invisible in the original; and here, too, he has done more than transport the events from a damp depressing climate to a baking sunspot. Synge's story turns on the old Irish custom of parental dominance which keeps sons chained in domestic servitude until, by the time they inherit, they make elderly husbands. Hence Christy's attempted slaying of his father, and the envious admiration of his listeners.

Matura's version is set in 1950, at the time of mass emigrations to Europe. Mama Benin, his witch-like stand-in for the Widow Quin, halts the comedy with a stony speech about "ships going, and every one taking handsome fellows away from me." Thus, when Ken (alias Christy) shambles into the matchwood runshop and confesses to his desperate deed (with Peggy raising a threatening broom over his head), the response he arouses has less to do with the hatred of parental tyranny than with the revelation of a sexual superman - a rare thing in those depleted parts.

The text follows Synge's plot to the letter, simulating Irish local equivalents for the Irish characters. The difference is

that Irish fantasy is supplanted by West Indian sexuality. In Nicholas Kent's Oxford Playhouse production, the girls (Joy Richardson and Jackie de Peza) sidle on and voluptuously explore the contours Ken's body has left on the rice bags. After the races Joan Ann Maynard's queenly Peggy finally succumbs and licks the sweat off his chest. As for Ken himself, Jim Findley undergoes a greater change than I have seen in any Irish production: beginning as a crumpled, ragged word-spinner and ending as a lion at bay, superb physique quivering with self-confident derision as his cowed onlookers realize what they have missed.

Matura's dialogue, some of it densely idiomatic, is earthily comic in a manner utterly different from Synge. It extracts the richest performance from Mona Hammond as the juju brandishing Mama, forever lurking on the premises with arms ready to snake out and seize the wavering hero.

As a would-be supporter of the Unicorn Theatre, I find it a penance to comment on Penny Casdagli's *The Green Ginger* (Arts Theatre). The story of a girl called Saffron who lives in Saffron Walden and discovers some eighteenth-century puppets in her bedroom which transport her to the days of saffron and ginger smuggling in Napoleonic Hull. It may set out to reveal that history is more interesting than what appears in school history books. But such is the awkwardness of the time shift that no story ever gets under way; and you are left feeling that Saffron's only reason for taking off into the past was to escape an irritable mother who feeds her exclusively on cornflakes and lets her children get lost when she goes shopping. Why do the Unicorn sets always wobble?

Irving Wardle

Bed-Pan Alley Shaw

Scottish agitprop theatre is virtually a genre in itself, and those familiar with John McGrath of 7:84 will know roughly what to expect from Wildcat Theatre's David MacLennan: a shotgun marriage of agitprop with a supposedly "good night out". Slabs of lecturing, full of facts and figures that would make good journalism, are shoved alongside delectably synthesized songs and comical sketches that pitch the audience's intellectual level roughly at the age of ten.

If you can read the title without being put off by it, you might guess that the show is about Health Service cuts, a subject that many people care deeply about but would not care to see reduced to preaching-to-the-convinced pantomime. There is a plot of sorts, politically interlarded as it often is: a hospital invites a heavily pregnant young princess to close a wing, not open it, and "rationalization" divides a plumber's tasks between providing a royal too and starting

surgical responsibilities in the maternity ward.

Privatizing runs rife: mental patients accept thin breakfasts, so the chip-shop entrepreneur (David Hicks) makes a packet. Elaine C. Smith inquires if the specialist had "a hard day at the office". And as an unquestioning working-class granny, complains that doctors tell you nothing. As if professionals, or some of them, can resist retreating into mystique; that is human conceit, not politics. They then line up to cry "Don't give me bullshit, give me agitprop".

Overworked staff, unemployed nurses, dilapidated buildings (to say nothing of government spending priorities) ought to make good theatre and perhaps we need Peter Nichols back again. When you go on a sponsored run for a kidney machine, maybe you should be sponsoring a nurse, they suggest. They complain "Small boys cryin' - Please stop the lyin' - Give me truth, it's more beautiful than romance!" to the souped-up musical accompaniment. Chronic schizophrenia is the clear diagnosis.

Anthony Masters

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THE TIMES DIARY

Against all odds

When John Z. DeLorean, the failed motor manufacturer whose crash cost British taxpayers millions of pounds, appears in court in Los Angeles on March 6, he might care to reflect on the words used over his picture when he appeared in a Cutty Sark whisky advertisement a year or two ago. "One out of every 100 new businesses succeeds," the copy said. "Here's to those who take the odds." Then, of course, there were the US magazine ads for the DeLorean car: "Live the dream." DeLorean lived the business dream and took the odds from the very beginning, according to Ivan Fallon and James Srodes, whose book *DeLorean* is just out in paperback. At 23, fresh from business school, DeLorean set up a telephone directory advertising venture, closing it down after one day following complaints from the phone company and police inquiries. Fallon and Srodes found the story in a 1948 copy of the *Detroit Times*. They say that if the paper hadn't folded, the British government might have been alerted and have held on to the \$85m it gave DeLorean to start his car factory in Belfast. DeLorean, as well as being in the midst of bankruptcy proceedings, is facing trial on cocaine smuggling charges.

Flying tonight

The Flying Tigers are a bunch of engaging and amiable aeronauts whose enthusiasm for anything to do with aviation knows no bounds. Their fervour was demonstrated at their annual dinner in the Hilton at (where else?) Gatwick. The menu were thoughtfully printed with dotted lines and instructions which, if carefully followed, produced paper aeroplanes.

● The Government's official handbook for its information officers has turned up some little gems as usual. There is Miss Lightfoot of the Sports Council and watch out for Mr Porter of British Rail (Eastern Region) and Mr Crump, Department of Transport.

Water polo?

Prince Charles, in Brunei for that country's independence celebrations this week, has been allotted particularly appropriate digs - a country house called The Bungalow in the grounds of the world's most exclusive polo club. Membership of the Jerudong Park club depends - like most other things in Brunei - on the approval of the Sultan, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah. Club officials are reticent about the fees and the number of members, but I can tell you that Jerudong has 230 playing ponies, all owned by the Sultan. It is unlikely in these happy circumstances, that the prince will not indulge in his favourite sport, though if he does he may not be popular in certain quarters. "It will probably ruin the pitches," says the Sultan's stable master, Kevin Moore. The park has been waterlogged for four months because of monsoon rains. Still, if a prince and a sultan want to play polo, who's going to argue?

Name dropping

From polo to yachting, and a very special memento of last year's America's Cup that Sotheby's will auction in aid of Unicef next Thursday. *The Challenge 1983* is a handsome, 300-page, limited edition record of the competition put together by eight top yachting writers and lavishly illustrated. Bound in hide and gold embossed, the 1,000 copies are selling at £658, but the Sotheby's book has already attracted a bid of £1,000. What makes it special, apart from the fact that it is copy No 1, is the autographs it contains: John Bertrand, the winning Australian skipper, and his prime minister, Bob Hawke; Pierre Trudeau, on behalf of the Canadian team; and the Duke of Edinburgh and Peter de Savary, mastermind of the British effort. No signature, though, from the New York Yacht Club, which saw the America's Cup disappear from its mantlepiece for the first time in 132 years.

BARRY FANTONI



"Perhaps we should give marks for the way hunt saboteurs dodge the police"

Falklands fun

More news from the Falklands front. Entertainment being at a premium, RAF pilots amuse themselves by flying parallel to beaches containing large penguin colonies. The penguins, apparently hypnotised, follow the planes to and fro with their eyes like centre court crowds at Wimbledon. Then the fearless flyers approach head-on, the penguins crane their necks until... and then collapse backwards of thousands of stout parties.

PHS

Towards a wider peace

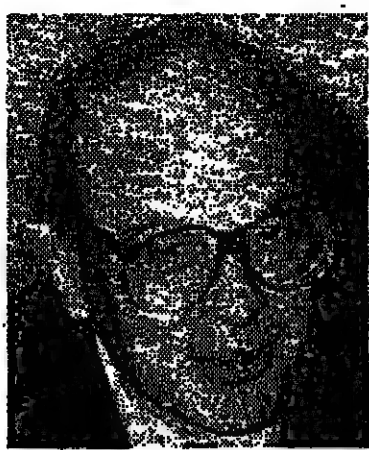


If we think of the Atlantic alliance in human terms, we see a man of full awareness, with full physical and intellectual powers. As a baby he was rather weak, and many doctors shook their heads in doubt and scepticism. But he grew from strength to strength, until every anxiety was silenced. His degree thesis, the challenge of liberty, was respected even by his declared opponents.

He has developed his social relationships, widened the circle of his knowledge and, most important, has preserved the security of the western world. Today he faces his most difficult task, the challenge of peace.

The alliance has no precedent. In this, the most ideological century in history, it guarantees the safety of all its members while allowing them to develop freely without restriction of any kind. Under its protection, the great ideological challenge between East and West has been able to develop in peaceful terms.

In the 35 years since its inception, the protagonists and the setting - notably the boundaries of the East-West confrontation - have changed. As early as 1956, an alarm bell was rung at the outbreak of the Suez crisis, which resulted not only in a dispute between allies - the United States on one side and France and Britain on the other - but also an abrupt break between the West and the Arab world. The subsequent Arab-Israeli wars accentuated the awareness of the dangerous consequences which an open confrontation with the Arab world would have on the political and economic security of the West. This awareness became a dramatic realization of impotence in the 1973 conflict.



Not much good was done by the sudden, over-effusive love for the Arab world (a love which to many smelt of oil) which the major European countries began to show after 1967, forgetting their earlier attitudes in favour of Israel. This alienated Israel, thus losing the European nation the opportunity to play a moderating part and leaving this task to the USA.

To find a show of more specific intentions by the European countries, we must go to the EEC summit of December 1973 at Copenhagen, with its declaration of readiness "to give our own assistance in the search for peace and for guaranteeing a solution" to this conflict. This declaration was repeated at various times, always in the same tone, up to the Venice declaration of June 13, 1980, when the Nine went further by proclaiming their readiness "to participate, in the context of a global settlement, in a system of specific, obligatory international guarantees, including action on the spot".

None of these declarations stopped the course of events. Destabilization processes continue to assail many countries in Asia and

Continuing our series on 35 years of Nato, Bettino Craxi, Italian Prime Minister, sees a relaxation of East-West tension as a prerequisite for limiting local wars in Africa and Asia and making Third World aid more effective

Africa, spheres of influence have continued to change and to extend, and the dividing line of the East-West confrontation remains as changing and unstable as ever.

What shall we do? Clearly we cannot give up. Equally clearly, if the whole weight of the alliance is periodically moved over these changing boundaries, the result can only be an intensification of international conflict, condemning local disputes to perpetuity.

This leads us to ask: Is a global vision more useful than a regional view of individual conflicts? Does European and American policy coincide towards the individual countries of Asia and Africa? What relation is there between a stable western policy and the instability and unpredictability of some governments of these countries?

In seeking an answer to these questions, we see an obvious need for improved East-West relations, which would greatly assist in limiting local conflicts and taking most of the danger out of them.

We are living through a critical stage in our relations with the Soviet bloc. Detente should not become a

simple memory. One general consideration must be kept in mind: it is possible to think that world peace can be maintained by an increasingly intense and sophisticated balance of terror? Can the world live by inventing increasingly complicated and terrible instruments of offence and by inventing equally complicated devices for defence?

I want to assert my conviction of the need to change course, of the impossibility of continuing on our present road indefinitely. I am not thinking about a situation in which one of the two contestants will put up his hands in surrender (the solidarity shown by the West with regard to the Soviet SS20 speaks for itself). I am thinking of an agreed, controlled change of direction; a reduction in armament that cannot be achieved if we argue over who was initially responsible for the arms race.

When *The Times* invited me to take part in the debate on the future of Nato, it asked me to "think aloud, even the unimaginable". Well, is it impossible to imagine an East-West agreement to renounce strategic and military advantages outside the area of the Atlantic Pact or the Warsaw Pact? Is it impossible to imagine an East-West understanding on the quantity, quality and nature of aid to the developing countries of the Third World? Is it impossible to imagine consistent activity aimed at preventing a war economy taking the place of a peace economy in all these countries, or death and degradation being the price which these people must pay for their yearning to survive?

Previous articles in this series appeared on January 13, January 25, and February 16. A full collection is to be published in book form in cooperation with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.

Rodney Cowton, recently returned from the South Atlantic, asks what the British taxpayer can expect in return for an outlay of £3,000m over five years

Striking a Falklands balance

The price to the British taxpayer of the Argentine invasion of the Falklands will be about £3,000m. This was finally confirmed last week with the publication of the Government's spending plans up to 1987. These showed spending on garrisoning the islands and on replacing military equipment lost in the 1982 conflict coming to about £1,700m in the next three years, on top of the £1,400m spent in the last two years.

These huge defence costs dwarf the sums set aside for civil projects: £15m to make good the war damage, and £31m to be spent over six years on development.

Nearly two years after the conflict it is appropriate to ask what the long-term benefits will be - or whether the Government has been forced to drop £3,000m into a Falklands peat bog without hope of a return.

The Government's position undoubtedly will remain that it had no alternative but to respond as it did to the invasion and that this overrode narrow calculations of cost. But as the glow of military victory fades, the Government's position would be helped if it could point to continuing benefits arising from this spending. After all, political principles are routinely abandoned long before the cost of upholding them reaches the Falklands level, which represents £300,000 a year for five years for every man, woman and child on the island.

The Government does point to some gains from the military victory: Britain's enhanced standing in the world and the West's greater credibility in Soviet eyes. The Services will benefit because lost ships and other hardware are being replaced by more advanced equipment.

However, there are mere spin-offs, and other direct benefits would have to be sought either in developments in the islands themselves, or in the wider advantages of retaining a foothold in the South Atlantic.

It seems unlikely that economic and social advances in the Falklands will greatly affect Britain.

Before the conflict, the Falklands economy was in long-term decline, and the most that seems in prospect now is that the decline may be arrested and a minimum level of sustainable activity be achieved.

Both the Falklands society and economy are extremely fragile, though they provide a way of life which the 1,800 islanders value. Some idea of this fragility, and of the lack of basic services is conveyed by the following facts:

● The only large-scale economic activity is sheep farming, but the grazing, as at present managed, is so poor that it supports only one sheep to about four and a half acres, as against four or five sheep to the acre on intensively managed good quality grassland in Britain.

● There are virtually no roads outside the only significant township, Port Stanley, with its population of about 900, though one is being constructed to the new airport. It is considered good going to cover by Land-Rover, across rough track and peat bog, the 60 miles to the second largest centre, Goose Green (population about 90) in four hours.

● Government revenue from the sale of stamps is at present comparable to that from income tax and company tax combined.

As our table shows, most of the recommendations by Lord Shackleton for the development of the islands are being implemented, though he did not see this leading to a growth of more than 500 in the population in this decade.

The two major Shackleton recommendations not being implemented are a radical and rapid break-up of the large land-holdings of absentee landlords (under a policy is being adopted of gradual subdivision as land comes on the market), and the creation of a 200-



Where some of the money goes: a patrolling Phantom is refuelled by a Hercules tanker plane over the exclusion zone and (below) sappers clear away battlefield debris at Murray Heights, near Port Stanley



mile fishery zone, which is still under consideration by the Foreign Office, but for which the Government shows no enthusiasm.

There is concern among the islanders that roughly three quarters of the development funds are being spent on improving the infrastructure, leaving, in the view of many, too little to be spent on revenue-earning projects.

It is because of this that the islanders are campaigning hard for the establishment of the fishery zone, which they think would enable them to generate £3m a year from licensing fees and services to foreign trawlers.

Hopes of major oil exploration in the South Atlantic have been relegated to the distant future. Despite the entrancing wildlife, particularly on the outlying islands, the scope for the development of

any substantial level of tourist activity seems limited.

It would have been easy for the Government to have stimulated something of a boom, no doubt soon to have been followed by soaring inflation, by opening to the islanders highly paid employment on building the new airport and other big civil engineering projects. Instead these jobs have mostly gone to unemployed from the U.K., with locals being involved scarcely at all.

The Government seems to have decided on a policy of limited and gradual development, preserving the islanders' way of life and insulating them as far as possible from the impact of the military presence.

This is an enlightened and realistic approach, but it constitutes a minimal return for the expenditure of £3,000m.

That means that any large

political benefits from the repositioning of the islands must be sought by looking at the Falklands in relation to the South Atlantic generally.

The islands' most obvious value is as the door to the British Antarctic Territories, the most northerly point of which lies only about 800 miles to the south. The Government has reaffirmed its interest in Antarctica by providing the British Antarctic Survey with an increased budget.

The relationship between the Falklands and the southern continent was well demonstrated recently when, within a space of ten days, two of the most evocative symbols of modern British activity in Antarctica, the ice patrol ship HMS Endurance and the British Antarctic Survey ship John Biscoe, put into Port Stanley.

Sir Rex Hunt, the Falklands Civil Commissioner, is also High Commissioner for the British Antarctic Territories.

International activity in Antarctica is regulated by the Antarctic Treaty of 1959. There is increasing pressure for this to be revised in the early 1990s to take account of the interests of nations which were not in the original Antarctic club, and discussions are also in progress to find an agreement for regulating mineral extraction.

Possession of the Falklands, and indeed of South Georgia, will do much to sustain the long-term credibility of British activity further south.

The Falklands do also have potential military value. It seems unlikely that they will ever emerge as a fully developed western base, as some have suggested, but the role of Ascension Island in the Falklands conflict demonstrated that a small island with an airfield and some associated facilities can prove of incalculable advantage in a crisis.

The military value of the Falklands seems to be twofold. Lord Buxton has pointed out the importance which would attach to the islands if the Panama Canal were ever closed and shipping forced to use the route round Cape Horn. The Americans would presumably be particularly conscious of this. The islands are still permitted, if not too loud, the natives pay good money to try to learn our language, or Jerry Lewis's, and a fifth column is active.

Take the fast-food, for instance, which is viewed with grave disapproval by the *establishment* on both gastronomic and linguistic grounds (if the natives have such stuff, they should call it *la restauration rapide*). The other day there was a significant item in the business news: the short-order dives with those of the *Chicken-Shops* and *les What-a-Burgers* under the same umbrella as *les Free-Times*. The new group will be hot on the heels of the market leader, *France-Quip*.

This is all very well up to a point, and shows that the commissariat is going to have a hard fight to keep the language of Shakespeare in its place. Still, we feel that we should give a helping hand in *la cuisine*, we

Ronald Butt

To stimulate or simulate?

Cabinet ministers have become increasingly sensitive to the charge that the Government has lost its momentum, and the most systematic attempt so far made to refute this idea was a speech on Tuesday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in which he rejected the notion that the "radicals" had been defeated in conflict with the "consolidators". He denied the defeat and the conflict.

It was a speech (delivered to the Institute of Directors) which deserves close analysis, not least in respect of the terminology on which Mr Brittan hung his argument. He was helped, in the first place, by being able to adopt and to reject the caricature drawn by opponents who see the radicals as (in his words) "champing at the bit to abolish the welfare state" and the consolidators as "replete with traditional wisdom, holding their back".

Mr Brittan was careful not to tread in a political quagmire by defining what the argument is really about since this would presumably have required him to describe radicals as those who wish to reform the welfare state, not to abolish it, and consolidators as those who believe that its present structure is politically sacrosanct. Instead, having observed that political success required a government to be radical and take risks, he built his argument on the assertion that the present British government is in the vanguard of a movement against collectivism sweeping through the democratic countries.

Who, he asked, now believed that the Government could permanently change the real world by pulling monetary or fiscal levers, or by planning and controls; who seriously argued that a bigger public sector and more public spending offer the best chance of economic and social progress? Likewise, the idea that workers could strike themselves into higher pay without destroying jobs was as outmoded as yesterday's educational fiction for social engineering or the belief that state subsidies and planning were the best way of providing housing.

Mr Brittan went on to argue that the pursuit of equality through collective (by which he presumably means state) action creates poverty, injustice and often corruption. The belief of the liberal Conservative in "the social market economy is a belief in the individual's ability to better himself, and through the market, to better others too." The Government's most important goal was therefore to "make markets work".

Here we come to the nub of his argument. He glided over the private sector, presumably because where there is no monopoly, markets work well to the extent that they are not inhibited by taxation or distorted by subsidies (about which he had nothing to say). But he observed that in the public sector the effects of markets should be "simulated" wherever possible. If markets worked better, well-paid employment, sustainable growth and better welfare would follow.

But, of course, this means no more than that greater financial discipline and more efficient management should be applied to the public sector whose size, in respect

of the welfare services, is not to be reduced. To use the word "market" in this sense is misleading since, if it means anything, it must involve genuine competition between rivals for custom.

It is, of course perfectly true that the Government has achieved more industrial privatization than any of its predecessors and that it has introduced a genuine market element into state services by (a) the contracting out of health service laundry or cleaning, but all this is still only marginal. The deeper question is whether the size of the public sector can be significantly reduced, and the truth of the matter seems to be that the Government is decided that it cannot. The text for that is not in the imagination of the media but in Mrs Thatcher's TV interview with Brian Walden on January 15 when she was quite clear that public spending could be held but not reduced.

This is the origin of the belief that the consolidators (of whom Mrs Thatcher is one) now run the state sector by efficiency mechanisms, not the same as creating markets outside state control, for the simple reason that state management without competition always tends towards bureaucratic inefficiency, and because a later, non-Thatcher, government could abandon the present financial discipline.

In much the same way, the Government tends to misuse the term "state market" which, in a (Cairns) sense implies a state which guarantees the framework of social insurance but which does not run the overwhelming proportion of the welfare services as a state-managed monopoly.

In Britain we absurdly dispute these questions as though what was at issue was how much the state should spend on welfare instead of how the welfare services should be run, and what the role of the state should be. Those who want reform of the structure of the welfare state do not do so because they wish to spend on welfare or education to be less, but because they believe that a reformed system in which the state managed less would give better results and might even lead to the application of more resources to these essentials.

Mr Brittan is right to stress how much the Government has done to recreate economic financial discipline but the idea of the *state market* is something different. Only when he talks of the Government's interest in greater competition in the professions and reform of the labour market is he really speaking of the market. The most promising work in his speech were about the need also to revive the market in private rented accommodation which could do much for labour mobility and therefore unemployment. But what the Government really ventures to tackle the Rent Acts?

The use of the word "market" where there is no true application, confuses the argument. What is at issue is whether the social services now run by the state could be improved by reforming the monopoly structure by which they are organized and financed, to make them genuinely more economically responsive to their users.

John P. Harris

A multi-pluralist société

Somewhere in France

Guerrilla activities aimed at allowing, or forbidding, the British and the French to consume each other's lamb, milk and turkeys are play-ground skirmishes compared with the continuing *français* saga.

A luxurious palace of rock 'n' roll has just been opened (by President Mitterrand, no less) in a Paris suburb. At the end of December, when they were putting the finishing touches to the multi-megawatt amplifiers, it was announced that the name of the hall would not after all be *Le Crystal*, since a higher authority (*le Monde* suggested it was Mitterrand himself) had found it that name *une tonalité anglo-saxonne*. They have delicate nuances over here. After all, *crystal* is a good old French word; the must have been the Anglo-Saxon in the woodpile. The hall has now been dubbed *Le Zenith*. The word is of Arabic origin, of course, and is also the name of an inexpensive Russian camera, but it must have been the patriotic acute that tipped the scales.

Heavy guns are being wheeled into commanding positions, with the imminent formation of the *Comité consultatif de général de la langue française*.

British visitors should not be unduly alarmed, however. Not all commissariats are police stations; some are inoffensive quangos, or even gravy-trains. Conversation in English is still permitted, if not too loud; the natives pay good money to try to learn our language, or Jerry Lewis's, and a fifth column is active.

Take the fast-food, for instance, which is viewed with grave disapproval by the *establishment* on both gastronomic and linguistic grounds (if the natives have such stuff, they should call it *la restauration rapide*). The other day there was a significant item in the business news: the short-order dives with those of the *Chicken-Shops* and *les What-a-Burgers* under the same umbrella as *les Free-Times*. The new group will be hot on the heels of the market leader, *France-Quip*.

This is all very well up to a point, and shows that the commissariat is going to have a hard fight to keep the language of Shakespeare in its place. Still, we feel that we should give a helping hand in *la cuisine*, we

who tour France with a suitcase full of gastronomic literature (and the sleeping, Bernard Levin, down below?). One does like - does one not? - to have one's shepherd's called *hachis parmentier* once one has got to the other side. There's a world of difference between Mother Brown and Ma Griffe *France-Quip* we can pass. It suggests - it pronounced with a French accent the chirp of the early bird getting to a micro-waved worm, *Bite-a-Chicken-Shop* must go. We suggest *Chic'n'chop* (apostrophes are in *la Française*, Jean's being more than jeans). *Free Time* has a manifest destiny as *Frill-Aime* and we are proud to offer it, with the suggestion of loving those *Frill-Aimes*.

What-a-burger, though, baffles it. It baffles the natives too; it pronounces it eight different ways, all wrong, which is natural enough for a people who, half the time, spell John John, yacht yacht, and think there is a composer called Haydn.

As a matter of fact, 90 per cent of French people find their own language so tricky that they have no time to bother with the ninety-nine of other languages, except *français*. They wince when foreigners use *generaux* instead of *général*, or on the other hand *navaux* instead of *navals*, but the 1984 *Petit Larousse* (the bible of *les scrabbleurs*) gives *spaghettis, gratifiés, lasagnes* and *confettis*, the singular being the same without the s. The clerks?

Donizetti
Had lots of confetti
But poor Canaletto
Had only one confetto

They still have the word *opéra* (Roman fortified town), plural *opéra*, but next year it will probably come into line: one *opéra*, two *opéras*, like the present *opéra*, *opéras* and *opéras*. This French double plural was neatly used by London correspondent recently (or a Parisian proof-reader?) who said that something cost 50 pence. God bless them, all the *opéras*. They do take their own language seriously. From semiologists, from poets to politicians, they argue about it with untiring passion, and are amazed that the English are so placid. Still, we feel that we should give a helping hand in *la cuisine*, we



HOW TO SPOIL A GOOD THING

At just this stage in any economic recovery, Britain characteristically begins to dissipate its energies in an increase in pay and prices rather than production. There are two good reasons to hope that 1984 may prove to be the golden, non-inflationary exception — but another two reasons to fear that pay is already beginning to cause trouble.

For once, during this recovery, Britain is free of the pent-up pressures held and then released by incomes policies, whose normal pattern has been two years of pay restraint followed by a catch-up year in which the benefits are thrown away. There are no wraps to come off earnings in the private sector, and therefore no reason, on this score, to expect the kind of pay scramble experienced in 1974 or 1979. What is more, since private industry has suddenly discovered the meaning of productivity, the present rate of increase in earnings is being translated into very modest increases in labour costs and hence prices. First indications are that this productivity revolution is continuing right through the recovery, when many economists feared it might begin to peter out.

As the deputy governor of the Bank of England pointed out in a major speech last night, productivity has been rising much faster, recently, than in other major economies — improving our cost competitiveness by a healthy 25 per cent since the nadir of 1981. But he took the opportunity to sound a warning too. Some of the improvement has been used to rebuild profits rather than hold down prices. That is valuable, so long as those profits are now used to boost investment. If not, there is a danger that they will be drained away in higher wage increases.

Pay rises in industry have not followed price inflation down to

4 per cent-5 per cent. Instead the rise in earnings has got stuck at about 8 per cent; in manufacturing, the increase is now just under 10 per cent. Admittedly, this reflects the productivity increases and surge in overtime common in the early stages of an economic recovery, which are normally followed by a rise in employment when the possibilities of increasing existing workers' overtime have been exhausted. Pay settlements are running at lower levels. But the figures are still too high. They mean real wages are continuing to rise at a time when Britain, and its three million unemployed in particular, are more clearly in need of still greater improvements in cost competitiveness to reverse a poor performance in manufactured trade.

There is another sense in which industrial pay rises are beginning to cause trouble. In the early stages of the recession, public-sector workers did unfavourably well. Since then the Government has been trying to force public service wage increases down, year by year, both to control public spending and as a signal to private sector employers. For this coming year, its public sector "pay factor" is only 3 per cent, which means that increases over and above this figure will have to be squeezed out of cash limits either by cutting staff numbers or by cutting other kinds of spending (eg. on schoolbooks or office computers). This year's spending figures provide a little elbow room for over-spending on pay, but not much. The Government's favoured special cases, such as the police (and, notoriously, the judiciary) can easily mop up the spare cash. So pay increases of 4 per cent-5 per cent for the mass of public service employees could place a real strain on public spending control, while still leaving these

employees with a growing grievance that they are falling behind the private sector in the pay race.

There is a particular group of workers who can aggravate the position still more. The nationalized industries are not directly covered by the 3 per cent "pay factor", though their borrowing limits are calculated on the assumption that they grant similarly modest pay rises. In the past, however, they have frequently granted bigger pay rises and then found the cash by cutting investment or raising prices. Many nationalized industry pay claims reflect what is going on in private industry, at least when pay is rising strongly there. And, as a new study by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research illustrates, pay rises in the nationalized industries are closely followed by the rest of the public sector.

None of these "comparability" effects is instant or automatic. But history shows that driving wages in the public and private sectors too far apart tends to be self-destructive, being followed all too often, as in 1974 and 1979, by catch-up claims the politicians find hard to resist. This is no argument for giving up the attempt to force down wage increases in the public sector. It is a reason for great concern about wage increases in private industry.

The lesson for industrialists, and the Chancellor, is clear. Unlike 1981 or 1982, this coming Budget is not one in which industry should hope for massive expenditure to lower industrial costs. There is far too much danger that windfall cash in industry's hands would feed straight through into higher pay rises. With a higher level of profits, the road to investment and expansion lies open to British industry. In a free market economy, it is up to managements not to throw the opportunity away.

DEMOCRATS IN SEARCH OF A CHAMPION

It is really asking too much of people to insist that no big conclusions should be drawn from Senator Mondale's victory in the Iowa Democratic caucuses. Of course, on a rational level it is true. Only 85,000 people voted in a state of nearly three million and fewer than half of those who voted chose Mr Mondale. Unlike a primary, the caucuses do not involve formal voting by all registered members of a given party. They consist of small meetings of the party faithful in precincts, so their results should tell us even less about the public mood than do primaries. Mr Mondale was therefore building a castle on a pinhead when he announced amid the jubilation of his supporters that "tonight is the beginning of the end of the Reagan administration".

However, at this early stage the election campaign is not just about numbers; it is about images, emotions and organization. There can be no doubt that victory in Iowa has given Mr Mondale a very big lift towards the Democratic nomination. It also helps him in his efforts to show that Mr Reagan is not invincible, especially as opinion polls indicate that he would beat Mr Reagan in Iowa.

Political pundits are now saying that Mr Mondale nearly has the Democratic nomination sewn up. If he does well in New Hampshire the assumption will probably become irreversible. This is not necessarily because

Mr Mondale is seen as the best man to be president. It is more because he has put together a political machine of formidable size and efficiency and has raised the funds to finance it. No other Democratic candidate can rival him in this respect.

What he has done is to seize the new fragmented structure of American politics and turn it to his advantage. Since power is no longer in the hands of the local party machines it is not enough to win the support of local party bosses. They cannot deliver their votes in the way they used to. They have been superseded by interest groups devoted to single issues or the concerns of limited sections of the population. Equipped with very refined computerized mailing lists they can mobilize their supporters across the nation on behalf of whichever candidate they regard as most sympathetic to their cause.

Mr Mondale has gone after them with the same single-minded dedication that previous candidates brought to the pursuit of big city and state bosses. He has won the support of the labour unions (with thirteen million names on their mailing list), the National Organization for Women, the National Education Association, the Black Alabama Democratic Conference, and more.

This looks like the obvious road to success at any rate as far as the nomination, but there is

always the risk of a reaction. The modest but significant achievements of Senator Hart and Mr McGovern in Iowa (more than a quarter of the votes there still demand for a clearer stand on principles and broad issues: Mr McGovern represents the old liberal heart of the party, Mr Hart is its new young head, which has rethought many of the old liberal assumptions about the role of the state in re-distributing wealth. Mr Mondale, by attempting to be all things to all men, risks becoming blurred and too much associated with the high spending and high taxes that would be required to placate all his interest groups at the same time.

Hence there is still a role for the other candidates in pressing for clarification of Mondale's positions. Senator Glenn may now be out of it, the victims as much of a very poorly run campaign as of his rather lacklustre conservative image. Senator Hart, on the other hand, although extremely unlikely to get within sight of the nomination, is young enough to be thinking of next time. He can therefore play a useful role at this stage by reminding the party that politics is not just about interest groups, mailing lists and organization but also about broader national and foreign issues. He will lose but he could lose in a way that does some service to his party and leaves him with credit for the future.

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution is a standing commission whose irregular reports jog government departments and inform educated opinion, which maintains a lively concern about modern man's propensity to foul his planetary nest. The commission generally reports and makes recommendations about particular topics, air pollution, nuclear power, oil in the sea, lead ... Its tenth report, published yesterday, is more of a *tour d'horizon*, and it is unquestionably useful to have the commission's account of the latest state of play in subjects big and small, from straw burning to melting of the polar ice-caps.

Acid rain is at present in the forefront of environmental debate in northern Europe. The commission, which prefers to call it acid deposition since it may be wet or dry, is not yet ready with detailed recommendations. But it classifies it as "one of the most important pollution issues of the present time" and accords it a high priority for research into its causes and effects as well as remedial measures. That form of pollution illustrates very clearly the transnational character of any effective

programme of preventive measures. The cost of removing a source of pollution may fall in one country while the cost of not removing it may fall in several others.

Another global atmospheric threat comes from the increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide. The increase is caused partly by deforestation, much more by the burning of fossil fuels. The carbon dioxide traps heat within the atmosphere by reflecting back radiation that would otherwise be lost into space. The higher the concentration the higher the temperature becomes, with the consequence of major climatic changes. The royal commission concludes that we can be certain that carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are increasing, and we can be fairly confident that the earth's atmosphere will be warmer as a result. There is less certainty about the magnitude and distribution of the effects. But they are potentially serious enough to lead the commission on to its most important, and probably most controversial, conclusion.

Uncertainty about the climatic, and therefore physical, economic and social effects, of

continued reliance on fossil fuels as the principal source of energy, makes it imperative, in the commission's view, to have alternative energy strategies — that is to say alternative combinations of fossil, nuclear and renewable source uses — so that a switch might be made if the "greenhouse effect" looked like becoming really troublesome. Thus it is that despite the environmental problems of a different kind attendant on nuclear power generation the commission supports "a modest increase" in nuclear power capacity in order to give flexibility and as part of a strategy for reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Nuclear waste disposal, which was singled out in a report by the royal commission six years ago as a brake upon the development of nuclear power because of its technical inadequacy, is not examined in its technical aspect in this report. That is a pity in view of the commission's advocacy of nuclear expansion, however modest, and the impression one derives from elsewhere that the technical and environmental problems surrounding nuclear waste disposal are far from being sorted out.

A new way with political funds

From Mr John C. Griffiths

Sir, Deplorable as Sugar Daddy political funding may be, members of other parties, while condemning the connivance between Tories and Socialists to preserve their own sources of involuntary contributions, should not crow too loudly. In recent times as much as a third of Liberal Party central funds have derived from one or two individual benefactors. It is both humiliating and undemocratic for the elected leadership of a political party to have to go on begging-bowl expeditions to whimsical benefactors as I have done, simply to ensure the party's survival.

We have in general been fortunate in that these benefactors have rarely tried to tie political or organisational strings to their gifts. More importantly, and I believe the most significant reform within the Liberal Party during the year of my presidency, the annual assembly at Harrogate for the first time abjured private patronage in favour of a member-based system of funding the party.

While it would be too much to expect the Conservative and Labour parties to give up their business and union sources of funds altogether, it might be more difficult for them to resist proposals for a reasonable limit on their exactions.

Two simple reforms would do much to strengthen the independence of our parliamentary democracy: a ceiling of £5,000 a year on the sum any individual or organisation, including companies and trades unions, could give to a political party or spend on the pursuit of a political party's objectives or the election of its candidates; and a pound for pound matching from state funds of the voluntary contributions raised by any party securing 5 per cent of the national vote or, where appropriate, the regional vote.

Yours etc,
J. C. GRIFFITHS (Immediate Past President, Liberal Party),
Lithgow, Dumfriesshire,
Pentlands,
Brecon, Powys.

Countryside heritage

From Lord Melchett

Sir, Amid his concern over whether those of us who wrote condemning the destruction of hedgerows and wild flowers in Essex should have addressed our letter (February 6) "as from" of from this farm, Lord Hampden (February 8) suggests that wild flowers are safe on the Sussex Downs and elsewhere because farmers have cared for them over the centuries.

In fact, as the Government's Nature Conservancy Council has recently said, since 1949 about 95 per cent of lowland herb-rich hay meadows have been destroyed, along with the hundreds of thousands of acres of moorland, downland, heathland and ancient lowland woodland already lost, and still being destroyed.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds gave evidence to a House of Lords select committee recently in which they revealed that, according to Ministry of Agriculture statistics, the current annual rate of loss of moorland in England and Wales is over 18,000 hectares, with 58,000 hectares being lost each year in Scotland.

Not far from the downland that Lord Hampden wrote about exempt — 80 per cent of lowland chalk and limestone grasslands have gone since 1949, largely as a result of "conversion to arable or improved grassland", according to the Nature Conservancy Council.

Unfortunately, Lord Hampden's own estate has not been spared from this depressing catalogue of destruction, and a considerable acreage of formerly open downland has been ploughed on the Glynde estate, for example, near Mount Caburn.

The farmer we criticized in our original letter is filling in a ditch and has ploughed out the bank, where wild violets and cowslips were growing, to incorporate it into an already vast field.

Apart from this total destruction, we know that the razing of two lengths of hedge to 3in from the ground was not simply a routine maintenance operation, as some of your correspondents have suggested. The motive for razing the length of boundary hedge was the landowner's desire to prevent his neighbour shooting what he saw as "his" pheasants from it.

It is clear from the overwhelming response we have received to our original letter that people all over the country feel impatient and outraged at the senseless and selfish destruction of our countryside. It must be stopped, both by altering the idiotic agricultural subsidies and by giving the community as a whole a say in the decisions now being taken by individual farmers and landowners.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Courtward Farm,
Ringstead,
Huntingdon, Norfolk.
February 16.

Business for Britain

From the Chairman of the Export Group for the Constructional Industries

Sir, Major overseas construction projects secured by British firms create employment at home and abroad for UK nationals, contribute to the balance of payments substantially, and usually spread further business for Britain. Moreover, they do serve as substantial demonstration of current British skills and achievements in a world where otherwise we may be just past history.

Almost without exception, these major projects are carried out for Government ministries or Government-sponsored corporations and

Unity of interests in Antarctica

From Sir Donald Logan

Sir, If the rôle of the states who are consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty is to be fairly assessed, more needs to be said in their defence than has so far appeared in your correspondence (February 4, 8, 13 and 16).

From recent observation, I can confirm that Antarctica is still "a vast beautiful wilderness, the domain of its wildlife and its scientists". Had there been no Antarctic Treaty it might have been different, as two of your previous correspondents have said. But as the relics of the old whaling stations still visible there testify, the presence of man and the dynamic of his activity are a reality and necessitate protective management if the nature and the peace of Antarctica are to be preserved.

To qualify as a consultative party a state must be engaged in substantial scientific research in Antarctica. Collectively the consultative parties form a repository of knowledge and experience of this unique and critical continent. For practical reasons alone that would seem to impose on them a major responsibility for prudent management. Acceptance of that responsibility led them to develop the Antarctic Treaty system.

These states are not engaged in a carve-up. They are not disposing of resources and are not asserting exclusive rights to anything. The treaty gives them none. All that their conclusions and recommendations can do is to impose restrictions on their own conduct in Antarctica. They are there, and see the need for both evolution and restraint. They cannot bind others, though they can hope that their example in self-restraint will commend itself to others so long as it is seen to be soundly based.

Environmental protection is the foremost consideration. It was in the living resources convention already negotiated and it is, I have no doubt, in the current negotiations about the distant possibility of mineral exploitation.

The system is neither a closed nor a secret one. No application to join

by a state engaged in scientific work there has been refused. All conclusions and recommendations are published by governments and in *Polar Record* (Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge). All scientific work may be and is freely published. It should be easier to obtain access to the technical input to the system than it is, say, to get at the input on matters before the European Community.

All who feel their interests involved should certainly be able to contribute. As the United Kingdom delegate at past meetings of the consultative parties I have urged that ample opportunity should be given for representative bodies of opinion to be heard and as a delegate have myself discussed issues with them, though always taking the view that the reality of man's presence and the dynamic of his activity must be recognised.

The system aims to chart a sensible course well before the risk of damage is imminent. It assumes that the responsibility to do so rests chiefly on those actively engaged in Antarctica. It is surely arguable that they are better placed to protect the universal interest than a universal body, would be, most of whose members by the nature of things could never have been there.

Simple, economic, effective and timely measures are needed and sadly the United Nations record in this regard is not impressive. The UN General Assembly's interest in the matter is entirely appropriate, but it should surely be possible to start by an unprejudiced study of the present system rather than by dismissing it (as seemed to be advocated at the outset of this correspondence).

At the same time the consultative parties would do well to demonstrate their recognition of the legitimate interests of the rest of the world and develop more effective liaison with its representative organs.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD LOGAN,
6 Thurloe Street, SW7,
February 20.

Detention of foreigners

From the Bishop of Birmingham and others

Sir, A Bill is about to be enacted which would empower police, immigration and customs officials to detain people who are suspected of no crime in this country, for whom there is no prospect of a charge in British courts and for whom there will be no right of redress.

Clause 12 (2) (b) of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, now in the House of Lords, is drawn so widely that anyone who has ever been associated with a liberation struggle ("the use of violence for political ends") anywhere, at any time, will be liable for detention for up to seven days.

The Home Secretary has placed on record the fact that the clause is far wider in scope than the Government considers necessary. He has acknowledged that it goes beyond the recommendations of the Jellicoe Report on which the Bill is based. He says, however, that his civil servants are unable to draft a narrower alternative clause which would still meet the needs of the Government.

To remedy the situation he has undertaken to issue a circular to the police advising them to limit their application of the law. Such a circular will have no standing in the courts and will advise police officers

to be lax in the performance of their statutory duty, which is the enforcement of the legislation passed by Parliament.

Britain has a long history as a haven for refugees from their own countries, where they may have been subject to repression, torture or murder. This country also has a long history of providing neutral territory for the peaceful resolution of conflicts through negotiations. If the Bill had become law at the time of the Lancaster House Conference, the participants from Zimbabwe would have found themselves liable to arbitrary detention!

We believe that, on such a sensitive matter, a Bill of this kind should define precisely the powers that are needed, and that the present Clause 12 (2) (b) has been drawn so widely as to endanger our reputation as a country in which visitors are welcome: to go about their affairs peacefully, and in which overseas conflicts may from time to time be peacefully resolved.

We therefore urge the removal of Clause 12 (2) (b) from the Bill.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH BIRMINGHAM,
KENNETH LICHFIELD,
STANLEY MANCHESTER,
RONALD SOUTHWARK,
As from Bishop of Birmingham,
Old Church Road,
Harborne, Birmingham.
February 20.

Aerial photographs

From Dr C. Board

Sir, Professors Rhind and Cooke (February 9) are absolutely right to stress the crucial importance of a properly constituted index of air photographs in computerized form (ideally for the whole of Britain, not merely England). It is the only sensible way of making maximum use of this invaluable information source.

How encouraging it is, therefore, to know that initial searches of the coverage of Royal Air Force photography are already made by computer for a fee of £5, unless the potential user of such photographs already has additional information such as sorting or frame numbers. For the time being the central register's manually operated indexing system allows users to obtain such information free. Provided that the central register can be properly housed and maintained, the information it contains ought to be freely available without charge. Computerized access to a unified index should be cheaper to provide than would a completely manual system.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER BOARD,
Department of Geography,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

Severn Bridge

From Professor Emeritus Sir Alan Harris

Sir, The Severn Bridge is a marvel of economy and grace. Those wind-induced oscillations which have beset previous suspension bridges have been parried here by a novel and elegant structural form. All major bridges need maintenance, as does this one; if, however, it would be in distress under some barely credible combination of loads such as the deck filled with lorries, nose to tail and a typhoon blowing, then what is needed is not reconstruction but management.

ministers like to talk to ministers. Therefore, to be up with the competition, British contractors regularly need the support of HM Government in the field. Foreign governments have for a long time deployed their front men with skill and marked success. The Export Group for the Constructional Industries has long pleaded for this ministerial support and warmly welcomed acceptance of the role by HM Government a few years ago; we pursue the widening of its application.

We are grateful for, and applaud, the lead which our Prime Minister has given to this very valuable support for our members and where one British contractor only is involved in an international compe-

tion it contains ought to be freely available without charge. Computerized access to a unified index should be cheaper to provide than would a completely manual system.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER BOARD,
Department of Geography,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

Old two hundredth

From Mr James R. Cullen

Sir, Sir Laurence Graffley-Smith's penny (February 7) would have taken his letter, or my two post cards, to the remotest British island in the South Pacific, while "a pennorth of pol-ter-ge" went a long way towards feeding a young family.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES R. CULLEN,
Weathercock House,
Hawthurst, Kent.

Here are two measures: install toll booths at the near end of each carriageway so that any build-up of waiting traffic is off the bridge; appoint a bridgeman, as at the Humber bridge, a qualified and experienced engineer, equipped to monitor and control traffic.

Four lanes can thus be kept flowing save for very rare occasions — and at little cost.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HARRIS,
Department of Civil Engineering,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Imperial College Road, SW7,
February 18.

Royal broadcasts and responsibility

From Mr J. Enoch Powell, MP for South (Official Unionist Party)

Sir, The very clarity and precision of Lord Blake's answer (February 20) to the questions I posed at Leicester on January 20 throws the absurdity of our situation into relief.

When the Queen visits her realms overseas she does so as their respective Sovereign and speaks and acts there on the advice of her local ministers.

When she visits the remaining Commonwealth states she speaks and acts on the advice of her UK ministers, i.e., as Queen of the United Kingdom. Yet, so Lord Blake says, it has always been the convention that twice a year she speaks to the Commonwealth upon no responsible advice at all.

When was this convention declared? And what ministers accept responsibility for it, remembering that advice that advice is not requisite is also advice?

I am, Sir, etc,
J. ENOCH POWELL,
House of Commons,
February 21.

Schools' cash cutbacks

From Professor E. C. Wragg

Sir, I wonder if those who live in large urban areas realise the effects that Government financial cutbacks are having on small village schools. In the county of Devon, for example, there are 39 such schools with minimum staffing of two teachers which are about to lose one of those for half of each day. This means that the heads of these schools will be teaching 30 children aged five to 11 every afternoon entirely on their own.

Village schools form a very important part of the community in many rural areas. The maintained system of education may not manage to eradicate inequality, but it should certainly be able to remove some of the more gross examples of deprivation, be these urban or rural. Unfortunately small village schools are often located in remote areas and are not easily able to organise themselves into a pressure group to fight decisions made in London or their county hall. Unless a humane policy towards them is adopted, however, many will have to provide a sub-standard education when previously they have offered an excellent one.

If parents eventually defect to other areas where there is more lavish provision, then the villages themselves will simply die.

Yours,
E. C. WRAGG, Director,
School of Education,
University of Exeter,
St Luke's,
Exeter,
Devon.

Rates levy on moorings

From Mr G. H. Gower

Sir, It may not be generally known, but the Rates Bill proposes to levy rates on swinging moorings. The Government has promised to reduce taxes on sport, not increase them. Many of the moorings are traditional in nature and have been used since Roman times. They do not provide high security in themselves and need to be watched over. The whole of the mooring gear can be lifted and carried away and is extremely difficult to trace.

To levy rates on swinging moorings is to encourage indiscriminate anchoring and create hazards to commercial shipping and private users in areas adjacent to sailing waters. Swinging moorings are used by yachtsmen of modest means, instead of expensive marinas, to keep their costs down and to eliminate their reliance on riverside and dockside facilities.

Yachting and yachtsmen are keeping the maritime skills of this nation alive in a healthy sport which should be encouraged, particularly those who have developed the independence and seamanship to use swinging moorings. I sincerely hope that the Government will drop this proposal from their Rates Bill.

Yours sincerely,
G. H. GOWER,
Manor House,
Four Oaks,
Rye, Sussex.

Sacred and profane

From Professor Hugh Lloyd-Jones

Sir, The symbolism of the flaying of Marsyas by Apollo, correctly explained, with reference to Dante, by the author of your interesting second leader of today (February 18), is fully worked out by Edgar Wind in his famous book *Pagan Mysteries in the Renaissance* (2nd edition 1968).

"The cruelty inflicted on Marsyas by Apollo ... Wind writes, 'expresses the supreme sense of disproportion by which the god attacks the human frame, which is agonised as it succumbs to the divine ecstasy'."

I am, Sir, yours etc,
HUGH LLOYD-JONES,
Christ Church,
Oxford,
February 18.

Fighting talk

From Mr Roland Scott-Jackson

Sir, One is grateful to Mr Jack Adrian (February 17) for his explanation of Mr Neil Kinnock's puzzling remark.

However, it is still not clear from this exegesis whether US Secretary of State George Shultz lost his cool, blew his top, went through the roof or merely slipped a tile.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROLAND SCOTT-JACKSON,
Seapoint,
Forelands,
Bembridge,
Isle of Wight,
February 18.

BOOKS

The quiet man who split the atom

Rutherford

Simple Genius
By David Wilson

(Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95)

The splitting of the atom was one of the last achievements of British world leadership - the declining empire's legacy of unimaginable destructive power to the Superpowers, which, by the middle of the 20th century, disputed between themselves the preeminence that had been Britain's when Ernest Rutherford was born, in 1871. It was essentially an Imperial achievement for the man who more than any other unlocked the secret of the atom was born in New Zealand, as far from the home country as it is possible to get, in a crude, pioneering society, but one which, far more than Britain at that time, valued and encouraged the teaching of science.

It was natural that after graduating brilliantly from Canterbury College, he should look towards England, and appropriate that he should have been enabled to come by the award of a scholarship endowed out of the profits of the 1851 Exhibition. It was more by luck than design that he found his way to Cambridge, and the Cavendish Laboratory, founded only 24 years earlier in the year of his birth; thanks to a timely change in the regulations Rutherford was the very first non-Cambridge graduate admitted to do research there. One of the strengths of this book, is the way David Wilson shows the scientific opportunities expanding just as the young Rutherford was coming up to take advantage of them; a very few years earlier, his career would not have been possible. Continuing the Imperial theme, Rutherford left Cambridge in 1899 to become Professor of Physics at McGill University,

Montreal, aged only 27. A sense of scientific isolation, however, North America was then still a relative backwater - drove him back to Manchester, in 1907, and eventually to the Cavendish, the laboratory which will always be associated with his name, in 1919. It was in Canada, though, that he first routed the hitherto dominant chemists by demonstrating the transmutation of matter by radioactivity, for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1908, ironically, for chemistry. And it was at Manchester, not Cambridge, that he first split the atom.

During the second half of his life, Rutherford increasingly moved out of the laboratory - though the Cavendish remained his base - into a wider sphere of public usefulness, and scientific politics, as the Great Panjandrum of British science. He did important work on anti-submarine techniques in the First World War, and on air defence before the Second; he sat on innumerable government committees and international scientific committees, and (though entirely unpolitical in other respects) committees to help Jewish refugees from Hitler. These multifarious activities, David Wilson believes, have been hitherto neglected, and he devotes a good deal of this book to documenting them. But the narrative saga while he does so, partly because Rutherford, away from his own subject, was a decent, but exceedingly dull man, partly because Wilson himself is not at home with the world of politics.

Wilson was for 30 years Science Correspondent of the BBC, and his strength lies in expounding Rutherford's work to the layman. Here, his enthusiasm matches, and captures, Rutherford's. However effective he may have been in other spheres, Rutherford's genius lay in the laboratory, and



Ernest Rutherford 1932 by James Gunn

genius it unquestionably was, consisting in an infinite capacity for taking pains (the was above all an experimental scientist) informed by an extraordinary intuitive sense, an ability to "see" the necessary structure of the invisible atom and to "know" what the answer must be before he could prove it. He loved what he always referred to as "his" alpha-particles, and once called ions "jolly little beggars, so real that I can almost see them".

In this almost Heath Robinson inventiveness, he was wonderfully English - though a New Zealander and a thorough professional, completely in the empirical tradition of the gentlemen amateurs who had founded the Cavendish. Although he came to terms intellectually and administratively with both, he disliked equally the theoretical/mathematical approach of Einstein, and the continental physicists and the increasingly vast, expensive and sophisticated machinery which large-scale atom-splitting demanded. Even before his death in 1937, American resources had far outstripped the Cavendish. As for the atomic bomb, it was a good thing he did not live to see it. It was not what he was about, at all.

John Campbell

Woodrow Wyatt reviews Koestler Master and Dog

Stranger on the Square
By Arthur and Cynthia Koestler

(Hutchinson, £9.95)

It is a strange book, but worthwhile. It might have been called "Master and Dog". By far the greater part was written by Cynthia Koestler who came into Koestler's life in 1949 as a part time secretary. She was promptly and gratefully seduced by him and served thereafter as an unprotesting, casually used, concubine, graduating to full time secretary and maid of all work, with occasional breaks including one for a short marriage. As a humble member of the harem she was often afflicted by jealousy but tried to conceal it for fear of being thrown out. In 1955 Koestler co-educationally married her.

The book was intended as a joint autobiography, but Arthur Koestler did not get far with his bit, stopping at 1952. As Cynthia took down from his dictation *The Struggle in the Elze* she could not have been much surprised. There Koestler writes: "To this day women are the poorest characters in my books. The reason is that I like dining with women, talking, listening and making love to women, but to write about them bores me."

Harold Harris, Koestler's literary executor, has recently arranged what material there is, which tails off in the late fifties. Cynthia Koestler kept a diary from 1961 to 1974 recording further details of their joint life. I hope Mr Harris assembles a book out of it. Obviously her writing is not comparable to her husband's but she has much of interest about his methods of working, his odd beliefs, his causes, his up and down moods, his charm, and what he was getting at in his books which he

wrote not for instant applause or money but in the justifiable confidence that posterity would value them.

I was fascinated by Koestler's attitude to women since he first stole a girl from me in the war. A steady supply of them was as necessary to him as alcohol which he also consumed in large quantities.

I have no criticism of Koestler whom I admired and liked a lot even at his prickliest merely a mild envy of how easily he got away with it. Like many men of towering talents he could not flourish unless his entourage subordinated themselves to his public whims. But the rewards were spectacular when the sun was out.

George Milnes has described in *Arthur Koestler, the Story of a Friendship*, how he understandably found the progressive Parkinson's disease and leukaemia unbearable when they began to destroy his faculties. It was a civilized decision to commit suicide in March 1983 when he was 77. I wondered then why he had let 55-year-old Cecilia, vigorous Cynthia du the same. After reading her scraps of autobiography I now understand why.

On the morning of the suicide, according to Milnes, she took their much loved dog to the vet to be put down. Whether he wished it or not she was determined to go with Arthur. In his last years he became dependent on her, and with uncommon gracefulness he had acknowledged her importance to him, making their relationship more even.

But she could not face the pointlessness of life without her last master. Though it was neither his intention nor expectation that she, too, should kill herself it would have been a cruelty for him to have forbidden her. It was the original and noble version of *survive*.

Elaine Feinstein on fiction Letters to my love

The Shelf
By Kay Dick

(Hamish Hamilton, £7.50)

The Stories of Bernard Malamud

(Chanto, £12.50)

The quiet elegance of Kay Dick's latest novel depends for its authority upon the voice of her narrator, Cass, identified as a woman, set writing of her passion for a dead girl with all the straightforward simplicity of a male lover. It is one of the very few accounts of ambivalent sexuality which bypass the claim to normality for the needs so aroused. All the feelings belong to any other pair of bewildered lovers.

We are prepared for this cleverly enough, by casting the story in the form of a letter to an intimate friend. It is there easy to reveal that a man (with whom Cass had a brief affair) has already declared: "You'd have preferred it if I'd been a woman". And yet even so, for a moment, the reader blinks, doubting for a moment whether it is the relationship with the man that is homosexual.

Anne, a beautiful girl once married, and now separated, has something of the quality of a courtesan. Her letters have an odd, manipulative cleverness, flattering, offering, disarming, hesitation. And her erotic presence plunges Cass into a whirlpool of desire which she does not welcome. Anne has had other lovers, who have been men; it is not a relevant issue in their intense, problematic relationship. Even jealousy hurts neither more nor less when Cass discovers a contemporary rival is a male. This short, hence, intelligent novel is as subtly accurate about the aphrodisiac effects of Lesbian love as it is

about the pain of loss; and forgetting; and the fear of death. Sour-faced or gripped with sorrowful love, trapped in the old immigrant culture, or putting a nervous foot out into a New World, in this marvelous collection of the stories of Bernard Malamud the resonance of each man's life is caught in his speech. Malamud is one of the great masters of the short story.

In the ordinary sense of the word, Malamud does not have characteristic themes: unless, perhaps, it is the lunacy of pursuit. Two stories complement one another on this tack. The first, "The Last Mohican" has poor unsuccessful Fiedelman, with his precious chapter of an unfinished study of Giotto in his briefcase, pursued by Susskind, a beggar who has him pinned at once as a Jew susceptible to the demands of charity. Alas, what Susskind wants is a suit; and for the one Fiedelman is wearing himself he is indebted to a relative; there can be no question of handing over the other in his suitcase. But Susskind is indefatigable; not to say bordering upon the supernatural; even a change of hotel does not throw him off the scent. His presence makes Fiedelman increasingly uneasy; and when his room is burgled and the precious briefcase stolen he is in no doubt who is responsible. Now the pursuit runs the other way; except that Fiedelman lacks Susskind's skills. And the outcome is equally sad for both men.

In his quiet, unpretentious Preface Malamud writes: "Working alone to create stories, despite serious inconveniences, is not a bad way to live our human loneliness." For the reader to face that loneliness in Malamud's hands is to make at once morally knowable and less bleak.

Tim Heald reviews thrillers of the month Rats, moles, worms, and assorted cattle

A Prayer for Fair Weather
By John Broderick

(Marion Boyars, £7.95)

Supporters of what is rather horribly called "genre fiction" are fond of suggesting that, at its best, it is better than most "literary fiction". For at least the first half of the thriller John Broderick is powerful support for this case. He writes beautifully: thumbnail characterisations and descriptions are lapidary; he evokes a spooky underworld of misfits and Jeremiahs deftly and convinc-

ingly; and he has a nice sardonic touch. It's a good book, I submit, which begins, "No, sir, I'm afraid I don't. There's hardly any demand for rats just now. Might I suggest Harrods?" But in the end this quirky tale of London terrorism and double dealing in high and low places fails to live up to early expectations; and it does so because it falls victim to the demands of the genre. Action: confrontation: no loose endings: a triumph, ultimately, of coincidence over character. What begins quite eerily and unusually in a pet shop in Victoria ends with run-of-the-mill spy story exchanges about a

"safe office job in Washington" and "a cousin in the Moscow Embassy". Before he becomes bogged down in plot, however, Mr Broderick is reminiscent of good Chesterton. I particularly enjoyed the leader of the terrorist cell based on the gay "Blue Light" whose name was Brendan Tupper, and for the first time in many years it was his real one.

Deadly Games, by Edward Topol and Fridrikh Neznansky (Quartet, £7.95) Full marks for plausibility in this tale of drug smuggling in the Soviet Union. The air of conviction is unsurprising since the authors are both Russian émigrés one of whom once worked in the state prosecutor's office.

Set in 1979 the story gets some of its impetus from the impending Brezhnev-Carter talks in Vienna. These are just a week away from the moment that investigator Shamrayev is called in to deal with the disappearance of one of Russia's leading young journalists, Vadim Belkin of *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. Belkin has been assigned to the official press corps for the Vienna trip and Brezhnev himself wants him along. He has to be found. The temptation to dwell on this angle is mercifully resisted and instead we get an inexorable unravelling of plot by Shamrayev and his colleague from CID, Lt-Col Svetlov. Belkin, it transpires, has got muddled up in the drug business when he bumps into an old school friend at the airport. The friend barely acknowledges him and Belkin puts this down to grief, for the friend is accompanying a coffin. The coffin is extremely heavy and when it falls to the ground it breaks open to reveal a stash of opium. Belkin becomes determined to write an exposure for his paper and his troubles begin.

The story itself is restrained though never less than competent. What lifts it is the portrait of Russia's black

economy and underground world of graft, viciousness and unacknowledged double dealing.

The Russian Woman, by Tom Hynan (Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95). If you are going to be silly you might as well do it in style. By the end of Chapter One the Russian Premier has been murdered while travelling in a cavalcade with the American President. Naturally the Russian's widow seeks refuge in the White House and the President starts fantasizing about "the firm softness of her thigh". Not long afterwards they are in bed together which is understandable because the President's wife is barking mad, but naturally the Russian widow is an enemy agent, who turns out to be one of ours, only to be revealed as...

Bad form to give away too much plot even when it is as wonderfully ludicrous as this one.

Mysterious Railway Stories, Edited by William Patrick (H. H. Allen, £8.95) There are some merry stories among this baker's dozen. Arnold Ridley and Ruth Alexander's "The Ghost Train" is classic Cornish melodrama. Eden Phillips' "My adventures in the Flying Scotsman" is amusingly ponderous; and you couldn't do a railway anthology without Freeman Wills Croft ("In spite of himself, Dunstan Thwaite shivered as he looked at the level crossing"). But the jewel in the crown is Conan Doyle's "The Lost Special".

It is a classic of its kind and, though not a Sherlock Holmes story, intriguing for its letter to *The Times* "over the signature of an amateur reasoner of some celebrity at that date". The reasoner barked up all the wrong trees but produced a characteristic maxim: "is one of the elementary principles of practical reasoning that when the impossible has been eliminated the residuum, however improbable, must contain the truth."

Sharpe's Enemy, by Bernard Cornwell (Collins, £8.50) This is the fifth adventure featuring Richard Sharpe, "the tall dark haired Rifleman with the scar that gave his face a slightly mocking look in repose." Like its predecessors it is set in the Peninsula Wars and invites comparison with C. S. Forester's "Hornblower". After 19 years in the Army Sharpe is a major now, but despite his promotion he seems a less substantial figure than at first, and closer to pastiche. Did Wellington's officers really say "Any questions?" after giving orders. Sounds like a solism to me.

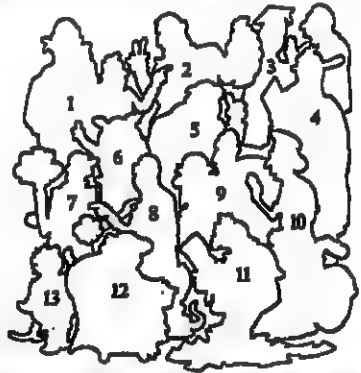
What are the best novels published in English since 1945? There can be no obvious answer to the question. So the task of judging an epoch in fiction that has not yet settled down into clear definition made controversy inevitable.

Everyone has an idea of the novels which should appear on the list and those which shouldn't.

But one thing about which there can be no argument is where to find all thirty books that make up the baker's dozen which is the Book Marketing Council's list.

Come along to W.H. Smith and you can judge for yourself as to their importance in the literary scheme of things.

1. Charley Fortnum, from *The Honourable Consul*, by Graham Greene.
2. Big Ben Ritchie-Hook, from *Sword of Honour* (3 novels) by Evelyn Waugh.
3. Jenny Bunn and Patrick Standish, from *Take a Girl Like You*, by Kingsley Amis.
4. Holden Caulfield, from *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger.
5. Kenneth Widemore, from *A Dance to the Music of Time* (12 novels) by Anthony Powell.
6. Old Major, from *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell.
7. Bulbani, from *Manservant and Maidservant*, by Ivy Compton-Burnett.
8. Charles Arrowby, from *The Sea, The Sea*, by Iris Murdoch.
9. Humbert Humbert and Dolores Haze, from *Lolita*, by Vladimir Nabokov.
10. Daphne Manners, from *The Raj Quartet*, by Paul Scott; and *Slaying On*, by Paul Scott.
11. Moses Herzog, from *Herzog*, by Saul Bellow.
12. Angelica Deverell, from *Angel*, by Elizabeth Taylor.
13. Piggie, from *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding.



At least there's no argument about where to find the Best Novels of our Time



'The technical brilliance, the erotic intensity, the troubled consciousness... a deep and serious exploration of the poetic impulse...'

ARARAT

DM Thomas

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'THE WHITE HOTEL' added a new dimension to contemporary British fiction. ARARAT proves that it was no fluke.' Sunday Times

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ANDREA COGGINS

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Patricia Tisdall looks at the Island's economy based on tourism, manufacturing industry and agriculture and in need of new job opportunities.

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Located only four miles off the south coast of England, the Isle of Wight's high sunshine records and varied scenery have attracted holidaymakers since Roman times. However, this diamond shaped 144 square mile island is much more than just a pleasant spot for family relaxation.

Although the leisure amenities are its most visible feature, there are also substantial industrial, commercial and agricultural communities which equal tourism in importance to the local economy.

Military boats have been built on the island since the early sixteenth century. From this stems deep roots in innovative high precision engineering projects dating back to before the First World War and the seaplanes developed by the S. E. Saunders and J. Samuel White yards.

The tradition continues on the same site to this day through the Saunders-Roe company's work with missiles and helicopters to its successor, the British Hovercraft Corporation. Added to the engineering skills developed in boatbuilding and aerospace has been an electronic dimension brought in by Plessey Radar after the Second World War.

The design and construction of Thrust II the jet-propelled car which smashed the world land speed record last October at Black Rock Desert, Nevada, is the latest of a long line of pioneering engineering achievements.

John Ackroyd, the designer who spent his formative years at Saunders-Roe, chose to build Thrust II on the island because he knew he could find the skills among the 118,000 residents.

Fellow team member and driver Richard Noble praised the support given by individuals in the early stages. "We started this venture with virtually nothing," he said. "People on the island helped us when many of the larger organizations thought we were a bad risk."

The fact that Thrust II was produced by a team of individuals rather than by a big corporation is typical of another island characteristic - self-reliance.

Sir John Nicholson, the energetic Lord Lieutenant, considers its readiness to help itself to be one of the island's chief strengths. As another example of resourcefulness he cites the grain drying and storage depot initiated by the National Farmers' Union as a cooperative venture in 1979.

The NFU's cereals committee stepped in when farmers were faced with the closure of the one commercial supplier. They formed a cooperative company and with EEC aid built the 7,000 ton store on a new quay-side site. The venture has proved a success not only in solving the immediate problems but also in bringing farmers together in other ways.

Discussions are in progress to see if joint marketing ventures can be started for tomatoes and other horticultural products grown in the acres of very advanced greenhouses. Some of the earliest soft fruit and vegetable crops in the country are produced in warm, sheltered conditions away from the coast. But superior marketing by continental suppliers mean that island produce is often not available to fetch the best prices in supermarkets.

Every scrap of self help will be needed if the Isle of Wight is to overcome its severe economic difficulties. For while the two million or so visitors who come to the island each year are very welcome, the business they bring masks an underlying economic picture which is vastly darker than that of the rest of the South of England. The seasonal jobs provided by tourism give an artificial stimulus to the annual average employment statistics scrutinised by Whitehall planners.

The problem is that while similar numbers of employees (about 7,500) are directly employed in accommodating tourists as in manufacturing, three quarters of the tourist jobs last for less than six months.

As Stephen Ross, the Liberal MP for the island, tirelessly points out, the true winter unemployment rate which topped 16 per cent last month for

the second year in succession is among the highest in the country.

Petitions have been lodged on several occasions to be granted Assisted Area Status in order to offer incentives to investors comparable to other employment blackspots. But other government measures being sought by Mr Ross include legislation to enable the three local borough councils to be welded together. Such a move, he argues would "help us all to pull in one direction".

The local authorities have been actively trying to encourage industrial development ever since the 1950s when the island's economy was ravaged by defence cuts. They enjoyed a measure of success with an increase of seven per cent in manufacturing employment against a national decrease of 10 per cent up until 1978 when economic alarm bells started ringing in County Hall.

However the authorities reacted quickly, and in some cases very bravely, as soon as the seriousness of the closures became apparent.

Since 1978 there has been a 20 per cent reduction in the manufacturing and construction sectors and employment in

Holidaymakers by Months

October 1981	26,172
November 1981	17,610
December 1981	19,271
January 1982	5,768
February 1982	12,146
March 1982	20,534
April 1982	56,897
May 1982	111,041
June 1982	193,748
July 1982	225,660
August 1982	277,636
September 1982	97,145
Total	1,003,228

tourism and agriculture has also declined, but at a slower rate.

A series of initiatives were put into effect to first try to alleviate the impact of the job losses and second to start to reconstruct a new industrial framework.

Three new leisure centres with indoor swimming pools and a new public lending library were completed. An employment promotion officer was appointed and an enterprise agency formed to coordinate assistance to small businesses.

Another, more controversial step, was the appointment of Alan Curtis, former chairman of Aston Martin to advise on future direction. Mr Curtis's recommendations completed

last autumn and officially described as "on the table" have not been formally released. However the two major proposals are understood to be first to unite policies through a powerful new Island Development Board and second to concentrate on the tourist industry as the quickest route to job creation.

Not surprisingly, the report was not well received by officials who had been painstakingly trying to build employment alternatives to the low wage, highly seasonal tourist industry for more than three decades.

Although tourism is far from being ignored, official emphasis continues to be on encouraging industrial development to alleviate unemployment.

Apart from its skilled workforce, the Isle of Wight claims to be able to offer lower cost land than anywhere else in the South of England. Education, particularly technical education and health facilities, have a high reputation. Above all the quality of life is reckoned to be attractive to key workers and once settled on the island people are loath to leave it.

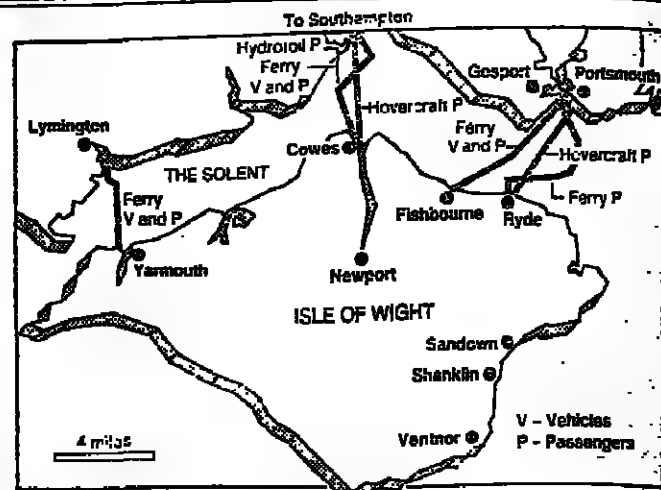
The main disadvantages of living and working on the Isle of Wight are the costs and delays associated with crossing the

Solent. However, communications at present are extremely good with links by fast hydrofoil and hovercraft as well as conventional boats. Sealink car ferries operate throughout the night. During the day passenger boats connect with frequent rail services from Portsmouth to London to give a total journey time by public transport from Ryde of less than two hours. In addition to Sealink, there are two independent operators offering connections to Southampton and to South-

Like everyone else on the island, John Horsnell, the chief executive of the Isle of Wight County Council, is very encouraged by recent new investment by Sealink. Two new super ferries each of which has about treble the previous car carrying capacity and double the passenger seats and representing a combined cost of about £9m came into operation last year.

But without wishing to appear ungrateful, there is deep concern about the future of the Sealink ferry connection after the operation is privatized from the BR network. The fear is that bigger ferries will lead to less frequent services and that late night winter connections will cease at periods when they are not well patronized.

The board has not only adopted the "Friendly" slogan identified in the research report for its 1984 advertising campaign, it has also accepted the recommendation that much



Keeping tourists happy and staying longer

Tourism in the Isle of Wight is big business. With around one million residential visitors a year and a similar number of day trippers the island is still one of the most popular resort areas in the British Isles. People come to enjoy the varied scenery and warm climate. They also like the extraordinary wealth of places to visit and things to do as well as the friendliness of the 118,000 permanent residents many of whom are themselves "over-

ers" or mainland born. Alas, like other British resorts, the Isle of Wight's tourist industry fortunes are on the decline as far as its traditional market is concerned. There has been a steady decrease in volume since the peak of 1968. But the problem is not so much that visitors are coming in fewer numbers but that they are staying for only about half the time.

A recent research study carried out by the English Tourist Board shows that, whereas the fortnight was the most popular holiday duration 15 years ago, the average has now climbed down to about a week with increasing numbers staying for only three, four or five nights. Moreover the forecast for the next 10 years was that short holidays of one to three nights would show the greatest increase.

The alarming discovery that the traditional marketing base of the middle class, middle aged and their families is no longer automatically secured even at peak season lies behind the business plan drawn up by the IOW tourist board last autumn.

The board has not only adopted the "Friendly" slogan identified in the research report for its 1984 advertising campaign, it has also accepted the recommendation that much

higher advertising spending is needed just to maintain present levels of business.

Even Breachley, the board's director, has appealed to the local authorities for extra funds to double the 1983-84 appropriation of £125,000 for mass media advertising and asked for a raise of £257,000 for the 1984-85 budget. "Without the extra money we will struggle just to stay still," he says.

A £100,000 once and for all grant made last year for cycling has already borne considerable fruits. The first stage of an international cycling race sponsored by Sealink in 1983 started in the Isle of Wight and received extensive television coverage. Another important race in the international cycling calendar is scheduled for June 1984.

Although the narrow and sometimes very billy main roads can make for frustrating motorcycling (particularly if there is a ferry to catch) there are also 500 miles of footpaths, bridlepaths, and numbered rights of way. These are used for walking, horse-riding, flying kites and even hang gliding.

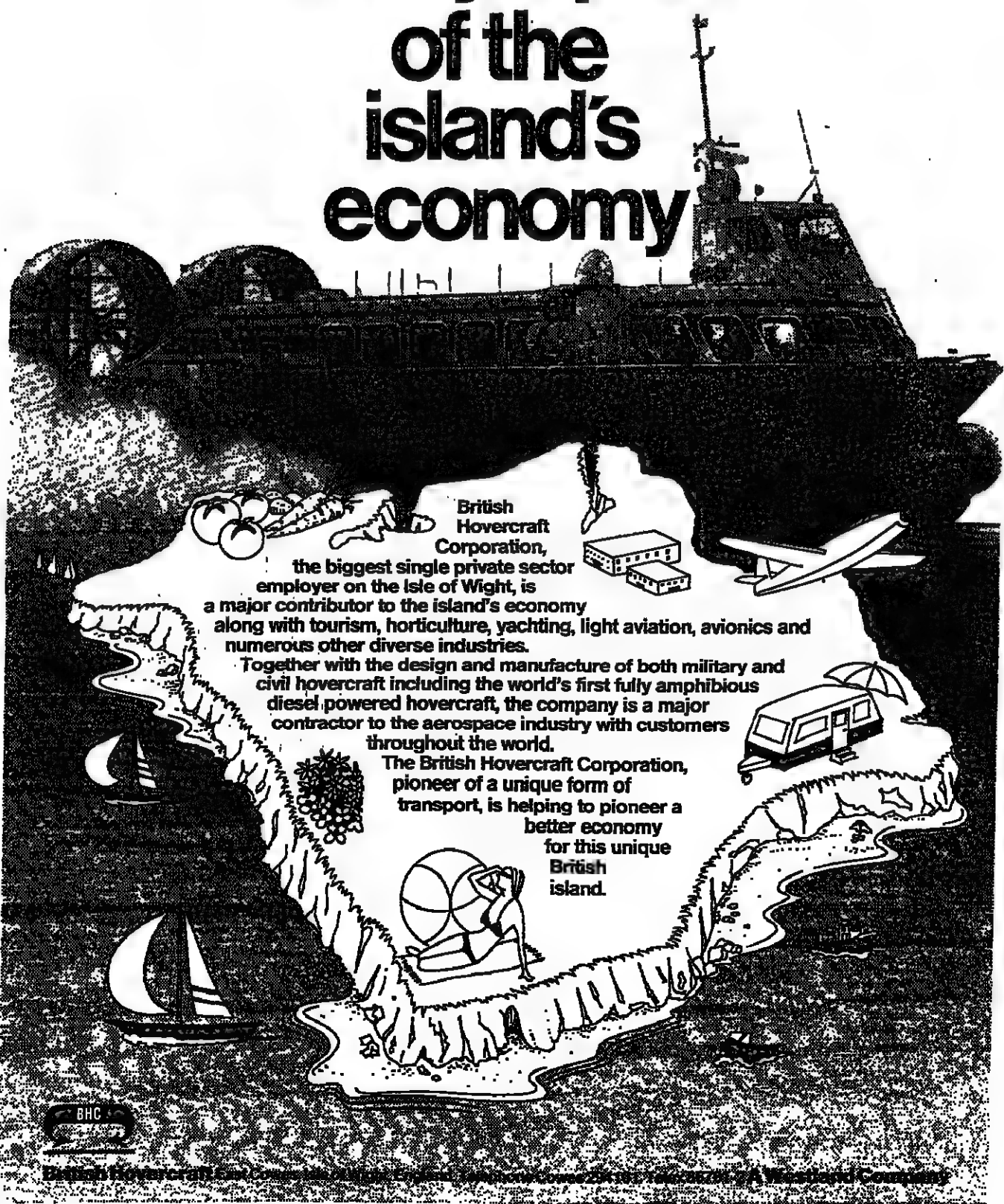
In order to encourage improving standards of amenities in order to meet new demands, the tourist board has introduced a "Seahorse" quality assessment scheme. Awards of one or more seahorse symbols are awarded to establishments by inspectors who consider quality, comfort and service in relationship to the type of business and the price it charges. The aim is to give first-time holidaymakers an objective yardstick against which to make their booking.

Although assessment has been discussed frequently in national tourist circles, the Isle of Wight board claims to be the first resort to put such a scheme

continued on facing page

BHC

a major part of the island's economy

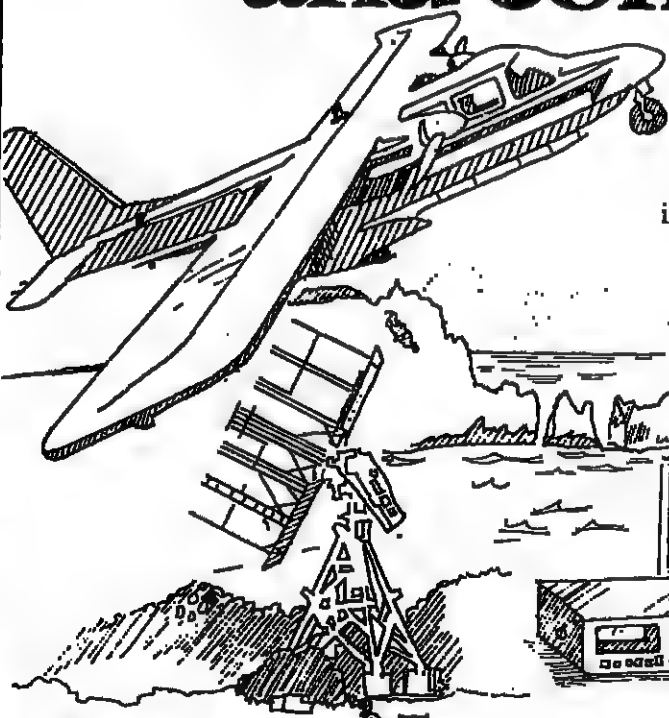


British Hovercraft Corporation, the biggest single private sector employer on the Isle of Wight, is a major contributor to the island's economy along with tourism, horticulture, yachting, light aviation, avionics and numerous other diverse industries.

Together with the design and manufacture of both military and civil hovercraft including the world's first fully amphibious diesel powered hovercraft, the company is a major contractor to the aerospace industry with customers throughout the world.

The British Hovercraft Corporation, pioneer of a unique form of transport, is helping to pioneer a better economy for this unique British island.

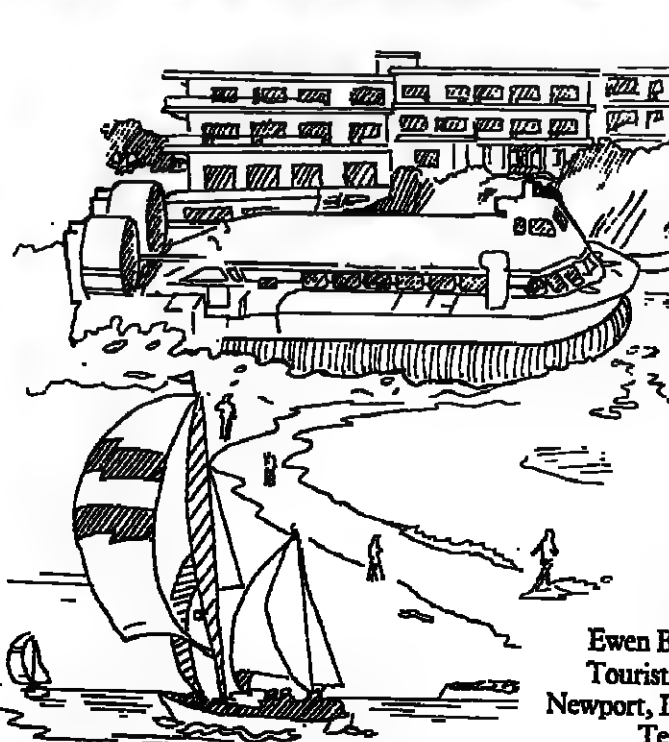
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The Isle of Wight is an ideal environment with a highly developed labour force, both male and female, with skills in the aviation/space, boat building, electronics, consumer crafts, and similar industries, as well as in the service industries. Low cost industrial land and development grants are available. New factories too.

Contact: Ron Neve, Employment Promotion/Industrial Development Officer, at Isle of Wight County Council, 6/7 Town Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight. Telephone (0983) 529120.

Dedication to tourism



Tourism has always been a major industry on the Isle of Wight. Every year, hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers choose the Island as their holiday resort abroad, but without language problems or travel difficulties. And a major advertising campaign each year helps make the 'friendly isle' even more popular.

There are plenty of opportunities for leisure companies and hotels to invest in the Island's tourist industry, with grants and financial assistance readily available, and the Island specialises in organising small select conferences.

Contact for holiday or investment information: Ewen Breachley, Isle of Wight Tourist Board, 21 High Street, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1JS. Telephone (0983) 524343.

Isle of Wight

Big business drops anchor at Cowes

A decision by Fairley Marine to concentrate all its boatbuilding activities at Cowes is one of a number of encouraging trends which has occurred in the Isle of Wight's manufacturing industry in the past 12 months.

Last spring, Fairley which is a subsidiary of the publicly quoted S. Pearson group combined the production of lifeboats at an existing yard at Cowes with that of a new acquisition, Cheverton Workboats. The company is now in the process of transferring the design and development of patrol boats from its original manufacturing base across the Solent at Hamble into a new site on the Medina river.

The availability of the new site was an important factor in Fairley's decision to concentrate all its production at Cowes. The site was left vacant as a result of the closure of an Elliott Turbomachinery engineering plant - one of a number of closures which has helped to boost unemployment totals to record levels of more than 16 per cent. However, John Blake, the chairman of Fairley Marine, saw the Elliott closure as an opportunity to consolidate all his company's manufacturing operations all under one roof.

The moves will result in an investment of about £15m by the time the transfer from Hamble is completed later this year. It will also result in a workforce of about 300, making Fairley one of the largest private sector employers next to the British Hovercraft Corporation and Plessey Radar.

In the 1950s the island economy was ravaged by defence cuts. These resulted in the closure of the J Samuel White naval shipbuilding business and Saunders-Roe military aircraft plant but left as a legacy a skilled workforce which later industrialists like Plessey Radar found as attractive as the development aid which was available at that time.

Plessey which currently employs about 1,200 people in producing radar installations, aircraft landing systems and other electronic equipment at a major manufacturing site at Cowes is an example of the type of high technology, high added value manufacturer which the authorities consider best suited to the IOW environment.

Another indicator which augurs well for an improvement on the island's overall economy is that having had to shed nearly 100 jobs during the 1981 recession, Plessey is now expanding. Three major new orders, including a £30m contract to manufacture a Nato strategic radar system, a new airfield surveillance radar for

Ministry of Defence airfields and a Royal Navy medium range radar contract were won last year.

These, together with a variety of new export contracts, have led to a new 16,000 sq ft office complex at the Cowes site which is due to be completed by July.

The outlook has also brightened for the British Hovercraft Corporation which with a workforce of 1,500 is the island's largest private sector employer. The company has high hopes of winning major orders for its new generation of AP 188 hovercraft. Built with weldable marine alloys and powered by diesel engines instead of gas turbines these cost about a quarter of the earlier versions to construct while running costs are cut by about two thirds.

Already in operation on the Ryde to Southsea ferry route from the island, the first orders to go overseas are due to be delivered in May to Damp skibsselskabet Orsund (D. S. O) of Denmark. The two 88 seater AP 188's will operate a new 14 mile route between Kasirup International airport in Copenhagen and Malmø in Sweden.

The BHC also has hopes of winning a MOD minesweeping contract following a series of imaginative demonstrations at Portland last spring. A feasibility study subsequently commissioned by the Royal Navy has been completed and a decision is expected shortly. An order from the Navy is seen as an essential ingredient in persuading foreign customers, a number of which expressed keen interest during the demonstrations, to finalise purchases.

Aerospace activities under-



The peaceful setting of the harbour at West Cowes

taken at Cowes for Westland, the BHC parent company has also been active. Work started in January on a new £7m contract to supply fuel pods to Boeing Vertol. The order which follows an extensive sales campaign will utilise some of the very advanced methods of bonding developed by BHC as a result of extensive research and development work often at the forefront of technological exploration.

Penalties of living on an island in terms of transporting goods are even less of a factor for companies like Marex which specialises in measuring environmental data from locations as remote as Greenland or the China Sea than for the shipping or aerospace industries.

Marex which has built up a turnover of about £11m mainly from the very specialist know-

ledge of its 65 employees could operate from pretty well anywhere and moved from working in Surrey in 1968 after considering a variety of alternatives.

It was already based at Cowes when Alan Ainslie, the present managing director joined the company but he would be reluctant to move it back to the mainland.

Mr Ainslie's experience has been that pleasant working and living conditions well away from metropolitan pressures have proved a positive advantage in attracting key staff. The commercial life of the area is centred on the two largest towns of Newport, which is the administrative centre and Ryde which is about eight miles away and a "gateway" for passengers and a "gaiceway" for passengers and the other island towns. Unlike the big manufacturers, the large store groups have prospered in recent years. Boots and Wool-

worth's have expanded their premises at both Ryde and at Newport while International Stores.

The Tesco hypermarket, which sells much more than just groceries, sparked a petrol price war last year when it opened its own filling station. Prices dropped by up to 15p a gallon in a single week after the opening of the Tesco pumps last March and remain at below typical mainland prices - a very welcome development to the owners of old, thirsty vehicles.

Encouragement to the community generally has been recent confirmation by Marks & Spencer after years of speculation that they too are planning to come to the Isle of Wight.

M&S's business acumen is well respected. Their decision to invest is considered as an offsetting factor against fears that the commercial sector may be next in line for an economic holocaust.

Wight, Mr Wise had looked at sites in North England and in Wales. Despite niceties - like a faulty telephone - he has not subsequently revised his initial impression that the IOW was the best choice - mainly because of an unusually positive attitude both to small companies and to work in general.

"The staff are the best I've ever had", he says. "The Solent is merely a management problem - I can get goods to London by the next day and I and my family feel more comfortable after four months of living here than after 13 years of living in London."

A town for Alice

Queen Victoria's decision to make Osborne House her rustic retreat has had a profound effect on the Isle of Wight. Statesmen, courtiers, writers and relatives of the royal couple and their nine children flocked to follow their example. In their wake came the merchants and property developers who have helped to create an Edwardian seaside paradise of wrought iron, bandstands and comfortable villas.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, the poet laureate, was one of the first of many distinguished visitors to fall in love with the "bowery hollow crowned with summer sea". He moved to Farringford in 1853 five years after Osborne House was completed and lived there for nearly half a century.

Other notable literary visitors

included Charles Dickens, resting from his labours on *David Copperfield*, Thomas Macaulay, working on Volume III of his *History of England* and the Rev. C. L. Dodgson, alias Lewis Carroll, who may have found his original *Alice* in neighbouring lodgings at Sandown. The poet Swinburne is buried at Bonchurch while Keats "discovered" Shanklin Chine - still one of the most popular of beauty spots - as early as 1817.

But the Latin memory also lives on with the popularity of the description "Pavlo" used by 35 local organisations including the local bus company since Vectis was the word the Romans used for the island.

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Enterprise and smugglers' tales

provision of premises at subsidised rent and rates. To help coordinate assistance, an Enterprise Agency backed by more than 20 organisations including Shell and Lloyds Bank as well as local firms such as Island Builders or Vectis Stone and the Medina Borough Council started operations in 1982.

Ron Neve, the agency's director (who is also the County Employment promotion officer) explains that in its first year the agency has been involved in wider activities than just helping new businesses to start up. There have been rescues of ailing firms, revivals of business which had already been closed and "work gathering", i.e. bringing in new orders to island firms, and helping established small businesses to realize their potential.

One of the most spectacular recent examples of local industry development has been that of Brian Stillwell's NFI (Nameplates for Industry) company. Mr Stillwell, the 46-year-old founder, moved his company which printed business nameplates in plastics from Addlestone in Surrey to Newport IOW in 1982. The company prospered but did not hit the very rapid growth it is experiencing at present until 10 years later when it was introduced to the new electronic technology which enables switch controls to be touched rather than pressed.

In order to supply the new market NFI gained the cooperation from its existing workforce, immediate access to new skills and local authority help to extend its factory.

Since 1979 Mr Stillwell's business which won an Industrial Innovation Award for its provision of premises at subsidised rent and rates. To help coordinate assistance, an Enterprise Agency backed by more than 20 organisations including Shell and Lloyds Bank as well as local firms such as Island Builders or Vectis Stone and the Medina Borough Council started operations in 1982.

part in the development of the Sinclair ZX81 personal computer, has expanded to a fourth factory.

Its turnover is around £3m and it employs 120 people. Transport has, however, proved a problem for an entrepreneur engaged in a more traditional type of business. Mr Edward Minghella, who has been exporting 54 varieties of award winning "real" ice cream from Ryde to markets such as Harrods, Fortnum & Mason and Selfridges for over 30 years, estimates that carriage off the island adds an additional 12 per cent to his costs.

Mr Minghella, who came to the island in 1950 as a newly married ex-serviceman and invested his demob money in a plant to convert local dairy products into ice-cream, is a leading local protagonist for a bridge or tunnel link with the mainland.

But even if the campaign for a permanent link fails, Mr Minghella would not consider ever moving his business to the mainland. Rather, he too is in the process of expansion with plans for a new ice-cream plant to double his output by the end of 1984.

One of the characteristics of new generation entrepreneurs generally is an interest in co-operation. The possibilities for mutual aid through a newly formed small firms association influenced Sam Wise to set up his Technical Projects company in the Isle of Wight last September. A break-away from a London based theatre supplier, Technical Projects produces audio and intercom equipment for the entertainment industry.

Before opting for the Isle of Wight, there were plenty of sceptics who doubted whether the inland Robin Hill country park another privately owned venture would survive when it opened a century and a quarter later. The proprietors themselves estimated in 1972 on attracting 10,000 visitors a year.

In fact the open-air zoo and commando-styled adventure playground was attended by over 200,000 people last year making it the second most popular attraction.

There are equally plenty of sceptics about major new all-weather proposals at present under consideration. One is an indoor sun and fun centre proposed for the beach at Shanklin. A second scheme would involve enclosing part of the promenade area, waterfall and tropical gardens at the base of the cliffs at Ventnor while a third would result in a new hotel and entertainment complex being created at Cowes to serve the business community as well as yachting patrons. No doubt they too will be proved wrong.

Happy holidaymakers

continued from facing page into practice. So far 189 establishments have requested and been granted assessments the results of which they can then use in their advertisements.

A great deal has also been achieved independently to take account of recent changes in the holiday business. A marked trend is for holidaymakers generally to spend less time on English beaches, and new attractions have opened up to cater for increased mobility and a thirst for knowledge.

In the Isle of Wight there has been greater development in this respect than elsewhere. Whereas in 1971 there were only 13 places of interest listed in the tourist board's brochure the 1984 version carries details of nearly 70 most of which have been created and promoted out of private investment.

However, by far the biggest attraction is the oldest. Blackgang Chine which opened in 1845 with the skeleton of a whale through which visitors could walk as a curiosity attracts more than 750,000 people compared with less than 200,000 brought in by Osborne House. One reason for this is its very long season and the fact that it is floodlit in the evening from late May to late September.

Another is the astonishing variety of gnomes, monsters, distorting mirrors and amusements cunningly displayed in nearly 30 acres of coastal cliff-top scenery.

Despite the success of Blackgang there were plenty of sceptics who doubted whether the inland Robin Hill country park another privately owned venture would survive when it opened a century and a quarter later. The proprietors themselves estimated in 1972 on attracting 10,000 visitors a year.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why gilt-edged brokers are being tarnished

The manner and timing of the Stock Exchange Council's decision to cut brokers' commissions on large gilt-edged deals has set a messy precedent for the more fundamental issues to be settled in the next 18 months.

On Tuesday the Council voted to cut gilt commissions by between 10 per cent and 20 per cent, with effect from April 9. Trading in government stocks is the lifeblood of the Stock Exchange, accounting for some 85 per cent of turnover. While equity dealing takes the lion's share of the headlines, it is dwarfed by the massive volumes of the gilt-edged market. In that light, it was bold to the point of self-flagellating altruism to cut gilt commissions as an interim step toward freely negotiated commissions which is the ultimate objective, to be reached possibly by the end of next year. Some brokers are being called on to suffer relatively more than others, because they are more heavily dependent on gilt-edged business.

This has of course always happened whenever the Stock Exchange has altered its charges. The effects do not fall evenly. However, as the market comes closer to the day of completely free bargaining and the end of the rigid distinction between broker and jobber, the stakes are driven inexorably higher.

Some gilt brokers pointed out yesterday that they are being ordered to cut their income at precisely the time when they ought to be fattening their reserves to be able to compete as market makers with international financial giants like Merrill Lynch and Nomura Securities. The capital backing needed for a pure broking or agency operation is much more modest.

The timing of commission cuts hits gilt brokers in another way. Many Stock Exchange firms are quietly talking with banks and other outsiders who want access to the market and can offer big capital injections. The brokers' bargaining position is bound to be undermined if their main source of revenue is publicly shrunk. Gilt commissions always were vulnerable, but it is wise to diminish the brokers' dowry at a stroke?

Putting the societies' house in order

The final proposals from the Building Societies Association on the legislative changes it wants to enable societies to broaden their activities raise important questions about the future regulation of the industry. They should figure prominently in the forthcoming Government green paper on building society legislation which is the next stage on the long and dusty road leading to a new Building Society Act. The BSA's report is much more sharply focused than its first discussion document. Where contentious, as in the proposal that building societies should be allowed to engage in insurance broking and possibly insurance underwriting, it is also much more realistic. The BSA recognizes that societies would have to accept prudential and regulatory requirements this kind of diversification would entail. As for setting up separate subsidiaries to carry on business in novel areas, there is also now a clear recognition that societies would have to be able to stand fully behind them in the event of their running into financial trouble.

The diversification of building societies into non-traditional activities raises the possibility that they will find different

In the most difficult plight of all is the uniquely placed Mullens, whose senior partner traditionally is the Government Broker and thus responsible for marketing of gilt-edged stock on the Bank of England's behalf. Virtually all Mullens' revenue is derived from gilt-edged commissions. It is thus uniquely vulnerable on trading grounds - a depressing thought after a spell when its official links alone have deterred potential suitors from making approaches. It is not even clear whether such a being as the Government Broker will exist in his present form in the brave new world of 1986.

What has soured the mood of innovation and reorganization in the Stock Exchange is the suspicion that Tuesday's Council vote fell largely according to the relative weight of vested interests. The gilt brokers found themselves in the minority against the rest who stood to gain or at least not lose as much. And all for what? To appease the impatience of institutional fund managers for change.

It has been a traditional view of the institutions that commissions on large gilt-edged transactions are too large. It costs little more to handle a deal worth £10m than one worth £1,000, yet the commission alone on the larger one is measured in thousands. The National Association of Pension Funds, nowadays a power in the City, argued forcefully last November that two years would be too long to wait for a reduction. The MAPF wanted, and has now got, an interim measure.

This appears to fly in the face of some influential disinterested opposition. The City Capital Markets Committee, a representative body set up by the Bank of England, studied the problem and came down firmly against any dismantling of commissions - which this week's decision clearly is.

It all must seem rather quaint to the likes of Salomon Brothers in New York. They have been through the fire of negotiated commissions since 1975 and come out immeasurably strengthened. Others died in that same fire. But no one was asked to dip a hand in the flames before they all had to.

parts of their business regulated by different bodies. Insurance is one case in point, banking is another. Although the association is proposing that retail banking activities such as unsecured lending and cheque and credit card facilities should be carried out as part of their mainstream business, they are not ruling out the possibility of setting up licensed deposit-taking subsidiaries which would come directly under the eye of the Bank of England.

The Government will need to consider thoroughly the division of supervisory responsibilities between the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and other regulatory agencies which building society diversification may involve. The Registry of Friendly Societies itself, as constituted probably lacks the resources to cope with much more work.

Until now supervision of building societies and their £86 billion of assets has moved in the direction of the flexible, discretionary approach adopted by the Bank of England toward banks. This may explain the suggestion that the Chief Registrar should be brought within the Bank of England's orbit.

Reuters Trustees build in powers to stop bidders

By Philip Robinson

Trustees of Reuters will be given the power to prevent a full takeover or any significant share-building when the news agency and business information group goes public in May.

The 10 trustees will be increased to a maximum of 14 and they will monitor the Reuters shareholders' register through a new Founders Share Company which will have an asset: a single share in Reuters which will carry more votes than the rest of the equity. Mr Geoffrey Upton, deputy chairman of the trustees, said yesterday that the Founders Share Company would exercise its effective veto if any one trustee thought that the Reuters' integrity and independence was threatened.

A takeover attempt after Reuters' shares are floated on the Stock Exchange or if the accumulation group of more than 15 per cent of either of the two classes of voting shares would be construed as threatening Reuters' independence. In a "belt and braces" approach to maintain its integrity, Reuters has decided to have the additional protection of a split equity. "A" shares will carry four votes each and account for a quarter of the issued capital and "B" shares will carry one vote each and account for 75 per cent. Only the "B" shares will be sold to the public.

Present Trustees of Reuters

Mr Angus McLachlan (New Zealand News: acting chairman) (Courier Press, Leamington)
Mr Geoffrey Upton (Thomson Regional) (Daily Telegraph)
Mr David Cole (Newspaper Publishers Association) (United Newspapers) (Fleet Holdings) (Associated Newspapers) (Daily Mail & General Trust)
Mr John LaPage
Mr Gordon Linacre
Mr Matthews
Mr John Wallwork

The "A" shares will be held entirely by the newspaper associations which represent the newspaper owners of Reuters along those lines.

The financial institutions' aversion to shares carrying different rights stems from the belief that, should a company's decision or trading seriously deviate, those responsible within the company should not be able to outvote shareholders who have put in most of the capital.

The fear that the institutions will refuse to underwrite the issue sent Reuters' merchant bankers, S. G. Warburg and N. M. Rothschild to America two weeks ago looking for potential underwriters.

The New York investment houses Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley are poised to underwrite the issue. As a result, the issue may be reduced in size. Those who have predicted that Reuters is worth £1.5 billion may now be looking at an issue which values the

news agency at less than £1 billion.

Mr Renfrew added: "We will try to persuade the institutions that the additional safeguard will not detract from our ability to make profits."

Reuters' pretax profits have risen from £3.1m to £3.3m since 1978 and are expected to have been between £50m and £60m last year.

Last September Reuters announced it was paying an interim dividend of 240 per cent share. It paid a final dividend of £60 per share in 1982 compared with £20 the previous year.

The agency's new wealth comes from the development in the 1970's of electronically transmitted business information.

This altered the Fleet Street press barons to the fortunes which could be realized by floating the agency on the stock market.

The main beneficiaries of Reuters as a public company will be Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday* with 12.2 per cent; Fleet Holdings, owners of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star* with 12.1 per cent and News International, publishers of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the *New of the World* with 9 per cent.

Reed International, owners of the *Daily Mirror* and five other national newspapers, has 7.9 per cent.

Pressure on UK as Bonn aids Airbus

By Our Industrial Correspondent

A British Government decision on provision of aid for the next European airline venture, the Airbus A320, became more pressing yesterday after the West German Cabinet approved DM 1,500m (£470m) of assistance for the project.

British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake in the Airbus Industries consortium and has asked the Government for up to £437m of launch aid.

Scepticism about the 150-seat A320 aircraft has come mainly from the British and German partners, with the French backing the development from the start.

The German decision to provide interest-free aid intensifies the pressure on the British Government. The Airbus partners have expressed concern at the possible lack of British involvement, but it has become clear that other western nations are lining up to take part should Britain pull out.

An announcement from Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected very soon. It is believed that the decision has been delayed because of ministers' insistence that BAE, which is already putting up £200m from its own resources for the project, should raise more from private sources.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the merchant bank has been appointed by the Government to advise on how a package of City funds can be put together to finance part of the British share of the A320.



Smiling in the rain: The Queen with Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England.

A right Royal celebration for the Bank of England

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The Bank of England yesterday celebrated 250 years of operations on its Threadneedle Street site by playing host to the Queen. But it was business as usual for the deputy governor, Mr Christopher McMahon, who gave a speech to the Birmingham and Midlands Institute of Bankers last night on the need for an increase in industrial investment to sustain economic recovery.

Mr McMahon, who under the governorship of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, has been able to stretch his wings in reflective speeches on economic issues, gave several warnings about present levels of investment. "Pointing to improvements in productivity and profits, he said that the key question was whether these developments could be sustained. 'Can the British economy enter a virtuous circle of higher profits, increased investment and sustained expansion? Or will increased company liquidity give rise to a vicious circle of unwarranted pay increases and other failures to control costs; higher inflation leading to tighter government policies; and a return to recession?'"

Mr McMahon said it was arguable that "current levels of investment are insufficient to support sustained expansion of the supply side of the economy." He said that net investment in manufacturing has been negative, that is, insufficient to cover depreciation, for the past three years. Productivity improvements so far, Mr McMahon said, "have probably been achieved largely by discarding high cost plant, shedding labour and improving working practices in existing plants." Looking ahead, however, "sustained productivity gains from the new smaller and more efficient industrial base are likely to require higher levels of investment."

Although investment intention surveys pointed to some growth, Mr McMahon said "company spending plans are unlikely to have much impact on the substantial cushion of liquidity that has been built up over the last year or so."

Battle for China deal

By John Lawless

Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, arrives in Peking today to discuss Britain's bid to supply equipment for a nuclear power station, which China is to build in Guangdong province.

He is to give details of a Government-backed financial package, which will largely determine whether more than £700m worth of power plant equipment business comes to Britain. GEC is, at present, the sole bidder to supply turbines and generators worth more than £3 billion in total, with Framatome, of France the only company negotiating to supply two 900 MW pressurized water reactors.

Industry analysts forecast that orders for power plant equipment worldwide will be running at 60 per cent of their level of the past few years. The contract, if awarded to GEC, would be Britain's biggest export order so far. The present export record is held by GEC, for the £500m Castle Peak power station contract three years ago in Hongkong. The first stage is on schedule, and the second is about six months ahead.

Steelco takeover blocked

By Jeremy Warner

Hepworth Ceramic's £115m bid for Steelco, the Nottinghamshire building materials group, was yesterday blocked by the Monopolies Commission.

But the company may still need the defensive strategy it had been preparing. No sooner had a "delighted" Mr David Donne, chairman of Steelco, received confirmation of the commission's findings than the Stock Market came alive with rumours that English China Clays (ECC) the West Country building materials and clays group, was about to pounce.

Steelco opened 10p lower at 244p, only to rebound to 264p after what was said to have been an unsuccessful attempt by De Zoete & Co., recently appointed as stockbroker to ECC, to raise the stock market for shares.

But Mr Donne said he had received no approaches from ECC and a bid would be unwise. "One company has already got its fingers badly burned."

He also drew attention to a concluding paragraph in the commission report issued after a nine-month investigation which said there was "no doubt of the confidence in Steelco's future, expressed to us in the company's evidence through the present chairman, and we have no reason to think that confidence is misplaced."

The commission concluded that a merger between Hepworth and Steelco would have an adverse effect on competition in the supply of refractories - heat-resistant bricks used mainly in steel making - and could result in increased imports.

It recognized the need for rationalization in the industry but rejected Hepworth's case that the merger was a precondition for such rationalization.

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, commenting on the report, said he had noted the commission's view that rationalization of the British refractories industry was necessary, to enable it to compete at home and overseas. The state-owned British Steel Corporation had favoured the merger, in evidence to the commission, because it saw the chance to dispose of its own big refractory-making business.

Dollar drops

A wave of profit-taking left the dollar sharply lower in the foreign exchange markets yesterday and sterling also lost ground against European currencies although it closed 70 points higher at 1.4510 against the dollar.

After a short-lived rally the previous day caused by concern over the Middle East and the possibility of higher US interest rates, the dollar fell as low as DM 2.6550 at one point in nervous, active trading. But it recovered slightly before the London close to finish the day down 3.98 pence at DM 2.6627 and well down against most other leading currencies.

Yesterday's setback for the US currency helped reinforce the view that the dollar, which has fallen nearly 18 pence since its January peak, is set for further long-term decline.

Although sterling closed firmer against the US currency, it showed sizable falls against other currencies and its free-weighted value slipped 0.3 to 82.4 yesterday.

In stock market yesterday shares eased with the FT 30-share index off 2.9 at 815.4. The Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares fell 1.4 to 1043.0.

Market report, page 20

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT index: 815.4 down 2.9
FT 30: 815.4 down 0.02
FT All Share: 494.02 down 0.28
Borussia: 18.687
Datastream US\$ Leads: 106.83 down 0.11
New York Dow Jones: 1,137.25 down 2.09
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones: 9,947.7 down 22.93
Hongkong Hang Sen: 1,047.22 down 19.69
Amsterdam: 166.1 down 2.7
Sydney: AO Index 740.0 down 0.5
Frankfurt Commerzbank: 1024.0 down 12.8
Brussels General: 141.18 up 0.15
Paris CAC Index: 161.0 down 0.6
Zurich SKA General: 305.7 down 2.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4510 up 70pts
Index 82.4 down 0.3
DM 3.8575 down 0.0575
FF 11.9150 down 0.1550
Yen 338.50 down 0.50
\$ollar Index 123.1 up 1.1
DM 2.6627 down 0.0399

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4540
Dollar DM 2.6555
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.578431
SDR £0.725616

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans w/e: fixed 9 1/2 - 9
3 month interbank 9 1/2 - 9 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/2 - 10 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/2 - 5 3/4
3 month FF 15 1/2 - 15 3/4
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 9 3/4 - 9 1/2
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest from January 4, 1984 to February 7, 1984 inclusive: 9.493 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$392.00 pm \$395.25
close \$394.50 - \$395.00
(£271.50 - £272.00)
New York (latest): \$395.50
Kruggerand (per coin): \$408.50-408 (2280-281)
Sovereigns (new): \$52.93 (£63.25-£64.00)
Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Last words as Hanson bid closes

A flurry of circulars went to London Brick shareholders yesterday, ahead of Tuesday's final closing date for the £247m takeover bid from Hanson Trust.

A full-colour defence document from London Brick urged shareholders to "dismiss this bid", claiming the company's super flotation brick was "probably the most exciting advance in British brick-making this century".

But Lord Hanson, in a separate circular, claimed his company offered greater profit potential for London Brick shareholders.

The British steel Corporation yesterday announced a £18m investment for its Lackenby heavy beam mill on Teesside, and at the same time announced the closure of its Cargo Fleet section mill. The 400 workers are being offered alternative jobs.

Yorkshire Bank, the profitable regional bank owned by four of the London clearing banks, is raising £75m with a 10-year sterling floating rate note issue managed by County Bank. The aim is to secure longer-term finance to fund existing business.

Draft plans to tighten tax rules covering roll up and other offshore funds are to be changed, to make it easier for some types of fund to qualify for exemption, the Treasury announced yesterday.

Vantona stalks F Miller

Vantona Vivella, the textile company run by Mr David Alliance, was yesterday sounding out institutional shareholders in F Miller (Textiles), the small Scottish Marks and Spencer clothing supplier.

Vantona is expected to bid for F Miller after last week's failure of an £11m bid from Nottingham Manufacturing.

But a consortium of four industrialists represented by Robert Fleming, the Merchant bank, has also asked shareholders to put them on the board.

Liffe quadruples fee

By Michael Prest

Inactive or loss-incurring members of the London International Financial Futures Exchange could find themselves squeezed out this year by the exchange's decision yesterday to raise the members' annual subscription fee from £1,250 to £5,000.

The increase, which will be smaller for members who use their seats for active trading, has been partly designed to cut Liffe's operating deficit. The exchange has also agreed with the International Commodities Clearing House, which clears

Liffe contracts, to a fairer split of the transaction fee charged for each lot traded.

But Liffe believes that it can arrange the matching and clearing of contracts more cheaply, and talks are progress with the IOCF. The idea is to increase the amount received by Liffe. Members of Liffe believe that the IOCF has been paid too much for its clearing services.

The IOCF will charge 25p a lot for each side of the transaction, under the new arrangements, due to come into force on April 1.

Humberside emerging as front runner

Nissan plant countdown begins

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A six-man study team from Nissan of Japan began a final appraisal of sites for the company's £50m British car assembly factory and up to 500 jobs with a visit to North Wales.

The company has looked at eight sites but favourite locations are widely assumed to be North and South Wales and Humberside, with the latter emerging as front runner.

Yesterday's visit to North Wales, with Cwyd County Council acting as hosts, marks the start of a delicate decision-making process, with an announcement promised by the end of March. The company has been careful not to state a preference for fear of boosting land prices.

Nissan wants 800 acres in an assisted area for the factory which, in its expected second phase, will involve a total investment of £350m and more than £100m of government aid.

The Nissan team, led by Mr E Kosi, a general manager and



Norman Lamont Votes of confidence in Britain

the man expected to be in charge, spent more than an hour studying the Cwyd site, two miles from the M56 and close to the former steelworks at Shotton.

The 810 acres being offered is in an industrial development area which is also most suitable for access to component suppliers. It also has the advantage of being publicly owned: 250 acres by the Welsh Development Agency, 481 acres by BSC Property and 79 acres by

Cheshire County Council, all of whom are ready to sell. Cwyd officials were also tending the exposure of the large pool of skilled labour in the area which has a good industrial relations record.

Today the Japanese visit Humberside, where the favoured site is North Killingholme airfield near the port of Immingham, and Sunderland Airport in Tyne and Wear.

Mr Norman Lamont, the Minister of State for Industry, claimed yesterday that Nissan's decision to invest in Britain was "an historic turning point" - a remarkable vote of confidence in Britain and Britain's prospects.

Mr Lamont, who has faced criticism over Nissan's lack of formal commitment to the second phase of the project which could lead to another 2,000 jobs - said it was "up to British industry and labour to demonstrate, as we are confident they will, that full-scale manufacture in the UK makes economic sense for the company."

Daejan Holdings PLC

INTERIM STATEMENT

Unaudited results for the half year ended 30th September 1983

	6 months to 30.9.83 £'000	6 months to 30.9.82 £'000
Rent and Service Charges less Property Outgoings	2,956	2,478
Surplus on Sales of Properties and Other Income	4,640	3,211
Financing Charges and Other Expenses	7,596	5,689
Group Profit before Tax	2,450	2,908
Taxation	5,146	2,781
Minority Interests	2,100	1,150
	10	15
Earnings Per Share	£3.036	£1.616
	18.63p	9.92p

An Interim Dividend of 2.875p per share (1982 - 1.925p) will be paid on 16th March 1984 to shareholders registered on 17th February 1984.

MARKET REPORT ● by Michael Clark

BHP hits at Bell bid

By Jonathan Clare

Sir James McNeill, the chairman of Broken Hill Proprietary yesterday launched an attack on Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Resources and the motives for its part-bid for the Australian mining group.

Sir James told shareholders: "There is evidence to suggest that the Bell Resources offer is a step in a plan which, if successfully carried through, would substantially change the character of Australia's mining company, BHP."

He added that Bell Resources' tender offer did not make it clear that its main asset is its existing holding of BHP shares. Therefore "an investment in Bell Resources is at present little more than an indirect investment in BHP shares."

Mr Holmes a Court, the Australian entrepreneur, has made a part-bid for BHP worth £145m for 16 million shares.

Bank. It is our intention to develop and enlarge the activities of IFT."

Industrial Funding Trust, which specializes in industrial and commercial instalment credit, had net assets of £2.1m at the end of last year and gross assets of more than £4.3m.

[illegible][illegible]

The dollar took another drubbing on exchanges against all currencies yesterday and helped the pound to close 70 points up on the day at \$1.4510, although significantly weaker against continental currencies. Sterling's trade weighted index finished down 0.3 at 82.4.

Dealers said market sentiment has resumed its recent trend of seeing a much easier dollar, but the sudden rise in value caused by the Straits of Hormuz scare over oil supplies.

The US currency lost 4 pennings and 12 centimes against the Deutschmark and French franc's values.

Post oil fear reaction hit both the dollar and sterling.

Sterling slid to a low of \$1.4475 after opening near \$1.45 and touched a high of \$1.4560 in the afternoon before recovering to a low of 34 1/2 pennings off to the Deutschmark at 3.8675; 13 centimes cheaper to French francs at 11.9150; and 2 1/2 centimes off to Swiss francs at 3.1825. However, it managed to gain 1/4 a yen at 338.50.

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES	
Rubber in 25 ton tonner;	
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per	
Gae-08 in US \$ per metric ton.	
RUBBER	
Apr. June	8706-54
Oct. Dec.	8712-50
Apr. June	887-83
Oct. Dec.	882-38
Apr. June	928-16
Oct. Dec.	938-50
Apr. June	9775-40
Oct. Dec.	98
SUGAR	
Mar.	178-20-178-90
May	183-20
Aug.	184-20-184-00
Oct.	180-80-181-00
Dec.	207-00-208-00
Mar.	202-00-223-00
May	230-00-232-00
COCA	
Mar.	1603-75
May	1679-75
July	1687-28
Sept.	1680-61
Nov.	1680-61
Jan.	1680-61
COFFEE	
Mar.	2030-32
May	1918-17

July	1840-45
Aug	1798-1801
Sept	1767-68
Oct	1750-52
Nov	1731-34
Dec	8,364
SIX MONTHS	
Jan	243.50-243.00
Feb	241.75-241.00
Mar	238.75-238.00
Apr	236.50-236.25
May	235.00-235.75
June	237.00-236.00
July	239.00-239.00
Aug	244.00-242.00
Vol 1,514	
LONDON EXCHANGE	
Unofficial prices:	
Official turnover in thousands.	
Prices in pounds per metric ton	
Silver in ounce per ounce	
Russett Wolff & Co., Ltd., export	
COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Three months	997-997.50
T D	1018-1018.50
Standard cathodes	
Three months	988.50-988.50
T D	1006.00-1006.50
Toner: Barely steady, but quiet.	

TIN VANDANO	
Cash	\$530-\$540
T:Ten months	\$670-\$678
T:D	430
Ten Easy	
T:Ten	
HIGH-GRADE	
Cash	\$560-\$570
T:Ten months	\$690-\$710
T:D	60
Ten Easy	
LEAD	
Cash	290.00-\$281.00
T:Three months	\$285.00-\$290.00
T:D	4,400
Tenr Steady	
ZING	
Cash	580-\$681
T:Three months	\$77.80-\$78.0
T:D	3,300
Tenr Steady	
Tone Firmer	
Tenr Steady	
Cash	\$47.0-\$48
T:D	650.00-\$663.0
Tenr Steady	
SILVER SMALL	
Cash	\$45.00-\$47.5
T:Three months	\$60.00-\$62.00
T:D	1,012
Tenr Quiet	
Aluminum	
Cash	1018.00-\$1017
T:Three months	1041.0-\$1041.50
T:D	3,700
Tenr Steady	

MICHEL			
Cash		3815	3190
Cost	Three months	3091	3059
			840
Longer, barely steady			
LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET			
In £/s per oz.		599.80	599.80
Jan		595.80	606.60
Feb		613.00	1,150
Mar		19.50	50.50
Oct		426.00	598.70
Vol:			1,208
Total Firm			
LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL			
FUTURES			
Resort West Financial Services Ltd.			
	Month	Volume	Settlement
Mar/84		37	4298
Jun/84		8	4368
Comment: Slightly stronger			
STERLING			
Mar/84		483	1,4530
Jun/84		190	1,4560
Sept/84			1,4618
Comment: Very steady			
D-MARK			
Mar/84		453	3767
Jun/84		66	3807
Oct/84			3848
Comment: Much Improved			

SWISS FRANG		
Mar84	10	4580
Apr84	10	4641
Comment: Gaining ground.		
EURODOLLARS		
Mar84	61 1/2	9026
Apr84	150	9026
May84	170	8987
Jun84	178	8977
Comment: Chisel.		
SHORT STERLING		
Mar84	135	9026
Apr84	136	9026
May84	72 1/2	9050
Jun84	79	9033
Comment: Farmer.		
GILTS		
Mar84	539	10827
Jun84	-	10827
Apr84	-	10799
Dec84	-	10624
Comment: Easier		
MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION:		
Average (actual) price for representative		
cattle on February 1984		
GB: Cattle, 60-170 lbs per live weight	140-67	47
GB: Sheep, 150-65 lbs per live weight	140-67	47
GB: Pigs, 80-73 lbs per live weight	140-65	45

(continued)

1963-64	1962-63	1961-62	1960-61	1959-60	1958-59	1957-58	1956-57	1955-56	1954-55	1953-54	1952-53	1951-52	1950-51	1949-50	1948-49	1947-48	1946-47	1945-46	1944-45	1943-44	1942-43	1941-42	1940-41	1939-40	1938-39	1937-38	1936-37	1935-36	1934-35	1933-34	1932-33	1931-32	1930-31	1929-30	1928-29	1927-28	1926-27	1925-26	1924-25	1923-24	1922-23	1921-22	1920-21	1919-20	1918-19	1917-18	1916-17	1915-16	1914-15	1913-14	1912-13	1911-12	1910-11	1909-10	1908-09	1907-08	1906-07	1905-06	1904-05	1903-04	1902-03	1901-02	1900-01	1899-00	1898-99	1897-98	1896-97	1895-96	1894-95	1893-94	1892-93	1891-92	1890-91	1889-90	1888-89	1887-88	1886-87	1885-86	1884-85	1883-84	1882-83	1881-82	1880-81	1879-80	1878-79	1877-78	1876-77	1875-76	1874-75	1873-74	1872-73	1871-72	1870-71	1869-70	1868-69	1867-68	1866-67	1865-66	1864-65	1863-64	1862-63	1861-62	1860-61	1859-60	1858-59	1857-58	1856-57	1855-56	1854-55	1853-54	1852-53	1851-52	1850-51	1849-50	1848-49	1847-48	1846-47	1845-46	1844-45	1843-44	1842-43	1841-42	1840-41	1839-40	1838-39	1837-38	1836-37	1835-36	1834-35	1833-34	1832-33	1831-32	1830-31	1829-30	1828-29	1827-28	1826-27	1825-26	1824-25	1823-24	1822-23	1821-22	1820-21	1819-20	1818-19	1817-18	1816-17	1815-16	1814-15	1813-14	1812-13	1811-12	1810-11	1809-10	1808-09	1807-08	1806-07	1805-06	1804-05	1803-04	1802-03	1801-02	1800-01	1799-00	1798-99	1797-98	1796-97	1795-96	1794-95	1793-94	1792-93	1791-92	1790-91	1789-90	1788-89	1787-88	1786-87	1785-86	1784-85	1783-84	1782-83	1781-82	1780-81	1779-80	1778-79	1777-78	1776-77	1775-76	1774-75	1773-74	1772-73	1771-72	1770-71	1769-70	1768-69	1767-68	1766-67	1765-66	1764-65	1763-64	1762-63	1761-62	1760-61	1759-60	1758-59	1757-58	1756-57	1755-56	1754-55	1753-54	1752-53	1751-52	1750-51	1749-50	1748-49	1747-48	1746-47	1745-46	1744-45	1743-44	1742-43	1741-42	1740-41	1739-40	1738-39	1737-38	1736-37	1735-36	1734-35	1733-34	1732-33	1731-32	1730-31	1729-30	1728-29	1727-28	1726-27	1725-26	1724-25	1723-24	1722-23	1721-22	1720-21	1719-20	1718-19	1717-18	1716-17	1715-16	1714-15	1713-14	1712-13	1711-12	1710-11	1709-10	1708-09	1707-08	1706-07	1705-06	1704-05	1703-04	1702-03	1701-02	1700-01	1699-00	1698-99	1697-98	1696-97	1695-96	1694-95	1693-94	1692-93	1691-92	1690-91	1689-90	1688-89	1687-88	1686-87	1685-86	1684-85	1683-84	1682-83	1681-82	1680-81	1679-80	1678-79	1677-78	1676-77	1675-76	1674-75	1673-74	1672-73	1671-72	1670-71	1669-70	1668-69	1667-68	1666-67	1665-66	1664-65	1663-64	1662-63	1661-62	1660-61	1659-60	1658-59	1657-58	1656-57	1655-56	1654-55	1653-54	1652-53	1651-52	1650-51	1649-50	1648-49	1647-48	1646-47	1645-46	1644-45	1643-44	1642-43	1641-42	1640-41	1639-40	1638-39	1637-38	1636-37	1635-36	1634-35	1633-34	1632-33	1631-32	1630-31	1629-30	1628-29	1627-28	1626-27	1625-26	1624-25	1623-24	1622-23	1621-22	1620-21	1619-20	1618-19	1617-18	1616-17	1615-16	1614-15	1613-14	1612-13	1611-12	1610-11	1609-10	1608-09	1607-08	1606-07	1605-06	1604-05	1603-04	1602-03	1601-02	1600-01	1599-00	1598-99	1597-98	1596-97	1595-96	1594-95	1593-94	1592-93	1591-92	1590-91	1589-90	1588-89	1587-88	1586-87	1585-86	1584-85	1583-84	1582-83	1581-82	1580-81	1579-80	1578-79	1577-78	1576-77	1575-76	1574-75	1573-74	1572-73	1571-72	1570-71	1569-70	1568-69	1567-68	1566-67	1565-66	1564-65	1563-64	1562-63	1561-62	1560-61	1559-60	1558-59	1557-58	1556-57	1555-56	1554-55	1553-54	1552-53	1551-52	1550-51	1549-50	1548-49	1547-48	1546-47	1545-46	1544-45	1543-44	1542-43	1541-42	1540-41	1539-40	1538-39	1537-38	1536-37	1535-36	1534-35	1533-34	1532-33	1531-32	1530-31	1529-30	1528-29	1527-28	1526-27	1525-26	1524-25	1523-24	1522-23	1521-22	1520-21	1519-20	1518-19	1517-18	1516-17	1515-16	1514-15	1513-14	1512-13	1511-12	1510-11	1509-10	1508-09	1507-08	1506-07	1505-06	1504-05	1503-04	1502-03	1501-02	1500-01	1499-00	1498-99	1497-98	1496-97	1495-96	1494-95	1493-94	1492-93	1491-92	1490-91	1489-90	1488-89	1487-88	1486-87	1485-86	1484-85	1483-84	1482-83	1481-82	1480-81	1479-80	1478-79	1477-78	1476-77	1475-76	1474-75	1473-74	1472-73	1471-72	1470-71	1469-70	1468-69	1467-68	1466-67	1465-66	1464-65	1463-64	1462-63	1461-62	1460-61	1459-60	1458-59	1457-58	1456-57	1455-56	1454-55	1453-54	1452-53	1451-52	1450-51	1449-50	1448-49	1447-48	1446-47	1445-46	1444-45	1443-44	1442-43	1441-42	1440-41	1439-40	1438-39	1437-38	1436-37	1435-36	1434-35	1433-34	1432-33	1431-32	1430-31	1429-30	1428-29	1427-28	1426-27	1425-26	1424-25	1423-24	1422-23	1421-22	1420-21	1419-20	1418-19	1417-18	1416-17	1415-16	1414-15	1413-14	1412-13	1411-12	1410-11	1409-10	1408-09	1407-08	1406-07	1405-06	1404-05	1403-04	1402-03	1401-02	1400-01	1399-00	1398-99	1397-98	1396-97	1395-96	1394-95	1393-94	1392-93	1391-92	1390-91	1389-90	1388-89	1387-88	1386-87	1385-86	1384-85	1383-84	1382-83	1381-82	1380-81	1379-80	1378-79	1377-78	1376-77	1375-76	1374-75	1373-74	1372-73	1371-72	1370-71	1369-70	1368-69	1367-68	1366-67	1365-66	1364-65	1363-64	1362-63	1361-62	1360-61	1359-60	1358-59	1357-58	1356-57	1355-56	1354-55	1353-54	1352-53	1351-52	1350-51	1349-50	1348-49	1347-48	1346-47	1345-46	1344-45	1343-44	1342-43	1341-42	1340-41	1339-40	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Lawson's balancing act on wine and beer duty may be spread over two years

How quickly must a national government respond to a judgement by the European Court of Justice?

The answer to that question is being pondered deeply at the Treasury. The present pattern of excise duties on alcoholic drinks is at stake, with possible effects on other duties such as that on tobacco.

The court has ruled that Britain must redress the excise duties between beer and wine.

The burden on wine would have to be eased, although there are various options for achieving this. If Britain does not conform, it could find itself arranged before the court again, with the Italian wine makers the most likely to start action.

But the court did not specify what Britain should do to achieve a more equitable sharing of the tax burden. Nor did it lay down a timetable.

So Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has to decide how far it is necessary to go in removing the anomaly and whether it should be removed at once or over, say, two Budgets.

The conundrum has to be cracked in time for the Budget on March 13. It could mean the Chancellor adding 2p to a pint of beer but lopping 20p off a bottle of wine if he decided to remove the anomaly in one operation.



Derek Harris looks at prospects in the drink market

Another option would be to leave wine duties as they are while adding 7p in tax to a pint of beer (6p duty and 1p VAT).

The prospect is causing anxiety among the brewers whose sales are already in the doldrums. The Wine and Spirit Association, while pleased at the prospect of a fresh boost to wine sales, is worried about repercussions for fortified wines such as ports, vermouths and sherrys as well as spirits.

The association's message to the Chancellor is that his priority should be "damage limitation" to drinks other than table wine.

The Chancellor has to weigh the effects of introducing distortions into the drinks sector. It would inevitably change the pattern of revenues to the Treasury, possibly for the worse. Pushing up beer prices has a big impact on the Retail Price Index, always a politically sensitive point.

If he looks for more excise revenue by a disproportionate rise in tobacco taxes, cigarette sales would slump within weeks of BAT's announcement of massive cuts in the British market with the loss of more than 1,800 jobs.

That route could mean a drop in tobacco revenues as well as threatening more jobs. Would he then contemplate a rise in VAT? The consumer boom shows no signs of weakening and is unthreatened by credit.

The case for spreading the changes to the beer-wine tax ratio over two Budgets is strong. Britain has already moved some way in the last three Budgets towards a more equal taxation treatment.

At one time there was a ratio of just under 3-1 in favour of beer on the basis of volume and this has now shrunk to just over 4-1.

Some of the more bellicose in

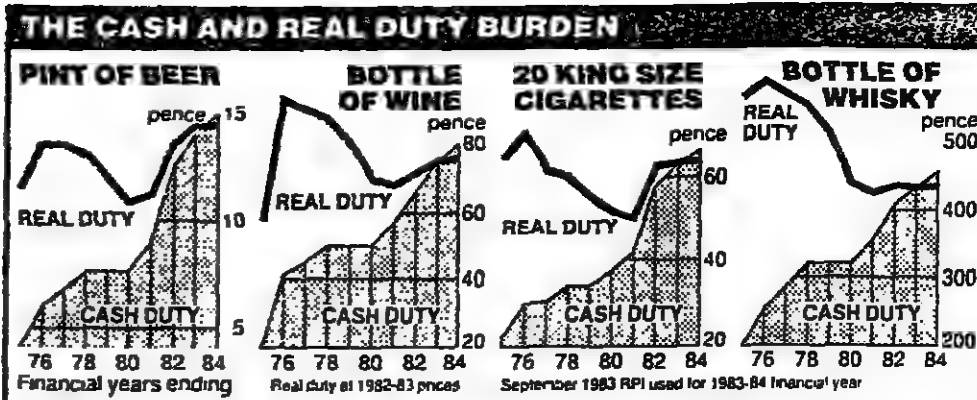
the wine lobbies have been campaigning for a ratio of 2.8-1 to reflect comparisons of alcohol content. But a more balanced view is that a 3-1 ratio is probably enough to satisfy the court ruling.

This is the basis of the calculation for adding 2p to a pint of beer and cutting wine by 20p a bottle. Spreading that over two years simply means a 1p a pint increase with a 10p wine reduction and the Brewers' Society, as might be expected, is urging only a 1p increase.

That would also have the effect of indexing beer duties for inflation since the last Budget. Indexation would also add 5p to a bottle of wine, 28p to a bottle of spirits and 3.5p to a packet of 20 cigarettes.

There is talk in the trade of the concept of elasticities within each drinks market. Beer production last year, for instance, was marginally up on 1982 by 0.9 per cent. Some brewers are discerning an improving sales trend, if only by a small margin.

There is, however, growing pressure from pubs and clubs to add 1p a pint at the counter to give an improved retail margin. Some big brewers may add another 1p for themselves, particularly in the South of England.



So to a trade increase of 2p the Chancellor might add another 2p. That, brewers argue, would save sales and the Treasury would lose revenue.

If the Treasury lost substantial revenues from a plunge in sales, the elasticity of the beer market would have been stretched too far, it is argued.

It is argued that an expected rise in wine sales would replace little of that lost beer duty revenue because the wine market is much smaller.

The trade does not believe that there will be much direct effect on beer drinkers switching to wine. More wine is likely to be sold at

the expense of fortified wines and spirits.

Scotch manufacturers are likely to raise prices by 15p to 20p a bottle before the Budget. But it looks as if sales in Britain of Scotch have largely recovered since a year ago, when releases from bond were down by more than a fifth. In the last 10 years whisky duty has fallen markedly in real terms in contrast to the treatment of other dutiable goods.

Everything would seem to point to the Chancellor adding at least 30p to a bottle of Scotch and other spirits. However, there is the problem of how far the spirits market will be able to withstand an overall retail increase of about

50p when wine will look so much cheaper.

There is another snare awaiting Mr Lawson. According to Wyman-Harris Research, which samples 2,000 pubs and clubs for its licensed trade monitor, beer prices at the counter have risen 99 per cent in the five years to the end of 1983. The Budget will furnish the ammunition for a cry that in five years beer prices have more than doubled.

As Wyman-Harris underlines, the brewers have made their margins in protection of brewers' bottom line profits. But that is the sort of point easily forgotten when populists are shouting.

Valor bids £6m for Dreamland

By Jonathan Clare

Valor, the cooker and gas appliance makers bid almost £6m yesterday for Dreamland Electrical Appliances, in which it recently bought a 29.9 per cent stake.

The bid is not agreed with the Dreamland board which is under strength after the resignation of two directors who represented Grove's interests until it sold its 29.9 per cent stake last month.

The board yesterday said it was still examining the terms of the offer.

Mr Micheal Montague, Valor's chairman, said it had always been his aim to build up an electrical arm for Valor alongside its traditional gas equipment range. It already makes split level electric cookers and electric fires.

Valor is offering 25p in cash, the price at which it bought a 25 per cent stake from Grove's or Valor shares worth about 27p for every one in Dreamland. If Valor issued all new shares for Dreamland it would increase the share capital by about 18 per cent.

Mr Montague, who is also chairman of the English Tourist Board, has forecast that Valor will make profits of £3.75m against £2.65m in the year which next month. The final dividend will be raised to give a total payment for the year of 4p against last year's 3.45p.

Commercial Property is on page 22

Marchwiel builds profits to £19.5m

Construction activity is unlikely to show any upturn this year the civil engineering group Marchwiel said yesterday, announcing a rise in pretax profits for the year to the end of October from £15.9m to £19.5m.

But the chairman believes the company will hold its position and that overall results this year will show a further advance. A final dividend of 6p is promised, lifting the total for the year from 7.5p to 9p.

Last year's results were enhanced by a change in accounting practice which increased 1983 profits by £1.4m and the comparable figure for 1982 by £2.2m. There was also first-time contribution from the Finlas Group.

In brief

● **Throgmorton** Secured Growth Trust has announced an interim dividend of 1p (0.6125p) for the six months to January 31 last to reduce disparity. The board expects that last year's total dividend of 2.7875p per share will at least be maintained this year. Gross income totalled £393,000 (£373,000) with pretax profit at £200,000 (£180,000).

● **Mitel Telecom**, the Canadian-based corporation has signed a contract from British Telecom valued at a minimum of £25m for the supply of telecommunications equipment. The contract, covering Regent and other Merlin call-connect systems, as well as the new TX-14 feature telephone, extends until the end of March, 1985. The products will be manufactured and supplied to British Telecom from the company's facility in Caldicot, Gwent.

● **Costain Group** has acquired Burnham Engineering Services from the Burnham Group. Burnham Engineering comprises petrocarbon developments including the telecommunications division and food projects division.

● **Hollis Bros** yesterday completed the acquisition of Metalliform. The Pergamon Press holding of Hollis ordinary capital remains at 51,533,165 shares (82.14 per cent of the enlarged capital).

● **Shaw & Marvin** has reported a turnover of £329,699 (£741,751) for the six months to September 30 last. Trading loss was down to £63,366 from £161,636. Pretax loss was reduced to £62,366 from £211,355. The company's rationalization programme continued throughout the six months.

● **Elecra Holdings** has announced pretax profits of £761,000 for the half-year to December 31 last, a rise of 18 per cent on the corresponding period last year. Turnover rose by 19 per cent to £10.6m and order books at the end of the period were considerably better than a year ago. An interim dividend of 1p per share is now proposed which is equivalent to a 10 per cent increase allowing for the recent scrip issue.

● **International Signal & Control**, the company's subsidiary, the Marquardt Company, has received another B-1B aircraft contract increase, bringing the total to \$28m (£19m). An order of \$17.6m was awarded by Vought Aerospace Corporation for 36 stabilizer support fittings for the B-1B aircraft.

● **Charter Consolidated**: Agreement in principle has been reached for the acquisition by RTZ Metals of the entire issued share capital of Delabole from Timebay. Timebay's issued share capital is 60 per cent owned by Charter and 40 per cent by Capper Pass, a wholly-owned subsidiary of RTZ Metals. The unaudited net asset value of Delabole on December 31 was £180,000.

● **Anglo-International Investment Trust**: Final dividend was 4p, a total of 6.5p for 1983. Pretax earnings were £581,873 (£553,362), tax was £208,373 (£198,349), transfer from contingency reserve was £165,000.

APPOINTMENTS

Reshuffle at Touche

Touche Ross & Co: Sir Douglas Morpeth is to retire from the company in April 1985. In anticipation of this and on reaching the age of 60 he is retiring as chairman of the board of partners. Mr D. R. P. Baker, managing partner, has been elected to succeed Sir Douglas as chairman and Mr M. J. Blackburn will replace Mr Baker as managing director.

Lloyds Bank: The following appointments will take effect on August 1. Mr Michael Thompson is to become deputy chief general manager, succeeding Mr Fred Crawley. Mr Crawley will become chief general manager on the retirement of Mr John Davis on July 31. Mr Thompson will be succeeded as assistant chief general manager by Mr Terry Cullum, at present general manager, personnel division. Mr Gerald Clarke, joint general manager for London, will take over as general manager, personnel. He will be succeeded by Mr Gerry Solomon, an assistant general manager.

Harveys of Bristol: Mr David Jarvis has been made finance director. Mr Jarvis will succeed Mr Roy Blake in this position on March 5. Mr Blake remains a director of Harveys.

R. P. Martin: Mr David M. L. McWilliam is to join the company on March 1 as managing director. Mr Peter M. Endres, formerly managing director, has been made executive deputy chairman.

Datastream: Mr Richard J. Beaver Stein, finance director of BOC, has become a director of the company. Mr D. W. N. Pitts has resigned as a director.

Courtauld Hosiery: Mr Jack Price has been appointed chairman and Mr Keith White deputy chairman.

Enterprise Oil: Dr Myles Bowen is to be the company's exploration director.

Iron and Steel Economic Development Committee: Mr H. G. De Ville, executive deputy chairman of BICC, is to be chairman of the committee.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Bancalys	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	10 1/4%
Consolidated Credit	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† **Major Bank Rates**
 • 1 year deposits and loans of under £10,000, 8 1/4%; £10,000 and over £20,000, 9%; £20,000 and over, 9 1/4%.

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FIRE FOR GROWTH!

FOOTBALL: WELSH INTERNATIONAL SIGNS NEW CONTRACT FOR CHAMPIONS

Everton ride out to a Sunday showdown with neighbours

Aston Villa.....1
Everton.....0
(aggregate 1-0)

Everton secured a place in the final of the Milk Cup against their neighbours, Liverpool, at Wembley on Sunday, March 25 - the first final to be staged on a Sunday and screened live - after this performance in the second leg of their semi-final before an estimated 46,000 people at Villa Park last night.

Although Villa were unchanged, Everton were forced to replace their ineligible former Villa striker, Gray, with Sharp and included the transfer listed King for Richardson, who was injured.

Everton showed they were not content to rely on their two goal advantage when they lined up five players on the half way line for a charge from the kick-off. Villa dealt competently with the challenge and were first to threaten when Bremner's seventh minute near post header was caught by Southall.

Everton, unbeaten in their last 14 matches, should have gone ahead after 11 minutes when Heath shot against Villa's crossbar after two mistakes by Bremner.

Shaw had his name taken for a foul on Ratcliffe and the offence had more than a hint of revenge about it as Ratcliffe had been cautioned in the first leg for a similar offence against Shaw.

Villa were struggling to put through a 20 yard shot by McMahon was held by Southall. It was Everton who again went close to scoring. On the half hour Sharp rose above the Villa defenders to head Sheedy's free-kick past Spink but the ball rebounded from a post.

Walters became the second Villa player to be booked by the referee, Keith Hackett, as frustration began to creep into their play. The pace and control of Heath was a constant worry to their defenders and Everton went in at half-time knowing



Rush: scored 31 goals this season

Rush to stay on at Liverpool for another four years

Ian Rush, the 22-year-old Welsh international forward who has scored 31 goals for Liverpool in two and a half seasons since joining them from Chester for £300,000, signed a new contract yesterday that will keep him at Anfield for the next four years.

Chris Woods, goalkeeper, and Dave Watson, Norwich City's leading young players, have signed new three-year contracts.

Ken Brown, manager, has also tied himself firmly to Carrrow Road - signing a six year contract to replace the four year agreement he is on at present.

Norwich have almost certainly broken their current pay structure to keep Watson and Woods, but, according to Robert Chase, the director in charge of contracts, "these players and the manager are the cornerstone of what we hope will be a highly successful side in the next few years."

Manchester United have recalled Stephen Pearce, their reserve goalkeeper from Middlesbrough. Pearce has had two loan spells at Ayresome Park in which he made his League and FA Cup debuts.

The 22-year-old Durham-born youngster conceded only six goals in 11 first team outings for Middlesbrough. Malcolm Allison, manager, wanted to buy Pearce but could not raise the £60,000 fee.

Black belt is toughest test yet for Christie

Errol Christie, Britain's unbeaten middleweight, must make sure that his American opponent, Dexter Bowman, does not put his best foot forward when they meet in Birmingham's Digbeth Civic Hall tonight.

Bowman, aged 24, from Birmingham, Alabama, is not only a black-belt karate expert but also a Thai-style kick fighter who confuses: "He said: 'I've never been so up for a fight,' he said after his morning road work. 'If I have the good luck to pass this Saturday night, the only thing they can ask of me is a world title fight. For three years I've made the sacrifices. Nothing else could motivate me.'"

Silsson and Acaries are scheduled to meet on Saturday night and more than 10,000 tickets have been sold. Acaries, aged 29, has held the title since taking it from the West German Frank Wissenbach on December 3.

He added that the contest with Silsson, who has held the European championship before, would not be easy "especially if he gets off to one of his wild starts as he usually does".

Acaries looks beyond bout with Silsson

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He added that the contest with Silsson, who has held the European championship before, would not be easy "especially if he gets off to one of his wild starts as he usually does".

Schumacher to play in France

Frankfurt (Reuters) - The West German football federation (DFB) said yesterday they would not ban their international goalkeeper, Schumacher, from the European championship despite the problems which his presence may cause.

Schumacher is notorious for his lack of control on the French midfield. Baiting, in the semi-final of the 1982 World Cup.

England TV plan

England's match against Brazil in Rio de Janeiro, now confirmed for June 10, is expected to be televised live.

The television companies have yet to discuss coverage of the match, or the two other fixtures which the Football Association (FA) intend to arrange in South America, but live screening seems possible, according to ITV, who have first choice of coverage.

The England tour has been arranged after a six-nation tournament in Brazil - to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Brazilian football association - was cancelled. Both England and Argentina were to have taken part.

A BBC spokesman said that they had intended to alternate matches with ITV at the Brazilian tournament.

Tottenham may have seven absentees

Tottenham Hotspur could be without seven senior players, including five full internationals, for Saturday's home game against Birmingham City. Definitely out will be the England centre back, Roberts, finishing a two-match suspension, and the forward, Crooks, who starts two game suspension, after being sent off against Swansea City reserves a fortnight ago.

They could be joined by the Argentine, Ardiles (groin injury), the Republic of Ireland winger, Galvin (ankle), Falco (hamstring) and the England full back, Thomas (thigh), who picked up their injuries in Tuesday's draw at Notts County.

Ardiles also has influenza, but Galvin has not broken his ankle, as feared. The injury is just bad bruising.

Thomas has the best chance of facing Birmingham, and the forward, Archibald, who missed the game with a knee injury, could also return.

The former England goalkeeper, Clemence, will play his third game after injury, in the reserves at Swindon tonight.

ICE SKATING Pairs champions omitted

The National Skating Association have dropped Susan Garland and Ian Jenkins from the team to compete in the world championships in Ottawa next month. Only the three dance couples, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, Karen Barber and Nicky Slater, Wendy Sessions and Stephen Williams, and the two solo skaters, Paul Robinson and Susan Jackson, have survived from the Winter Olympics.

The decision is harsh, but understandable in view of the lacklustre performance of the British pairs champions, Jenkins and Miss

Surprise finalist will face Briton

Dear Williams, of Australia, the world number six, will be beaten in the Finnish open squash rackets tournament, in three straight games, by Sweden's Jan-Olof Soderberg, in Helsinki on Tuesday.

The unheralded Soderberg will come up against Geoff Williams, of England, who overcame Sweden's Fredrik Jonsson in four games, in the final. The women's final will be between Lisa Oyle, of England, and Cario Clonda, of Australia.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: An American Football association, to coordinate the game in Britain, is to be formed in London on March 3. Representatives of 20 clubs met at a recent coaching course staged by Americans at RAF Chicksands, near Bedford, and decided to launch a governing body for the game which has grown in popularity as a result of Channel 4 coverage.

Calm leaves Britons at low ebb

From Adrian Morgan Cannes

There were only three winners at the Cannes regatta yesterday, where light winds caused the abandonment of both 470 and Finn races.

After a late start the wind filled in for an hour, allowing Spain's Gorostegui to creep up the line to take victory in the Star class, while Budnikov and Schwarz took Soling and Flying Dutchman honours.

British fortunes were at a low ebb - but little can be read from the day's disappointing races. Ossie Newman hopes to improve his 1983 sailing title today as the teams head for the mountains to the north of the city.

STAR, third race: 1. A Gorostegui (Esp), 2. R Grogan (Esp), 3. J. J. (Den), 4. J. J. (Den), 5. J. J. (Den), 6. J. J. (Den), 7. J. J. (Den), 8. J. J. (Den), 9. J. J. (Den), 10. J. J. (Den), 11. J. J. (Den), 12. J. J. (Den), 13. J. J. (Den), 14. J. J. (Den), 15. J. J. (Den), 16. J. J. (Den), 17. J. J. (Den), 18. J. J. (Den), 19. J. J. (Den), 20. J. J. (Den), 21. J. J. (Den), 22. J. J. (Den), 23. J. J. (Den), 24. J. J. (Den), 25. J. J. (Den), 26. J. J. (Den), 27. J. J. (Den), 28. J. J. (Den), 29. J. J. (Den), 30. J. J. (Den), 31. J. J. (Den), 32. J. J. (Den), 33. J. J. (Den), 34. J. J. (Den), 35. J. J. (Den), 36. J. J. (Den), 37. J. J. (Den), 38. J. J. (Den), 39. J. J. (Den), 40. J. J. (Den), 41. J. J. (Den), 42. J. J. (Den), 43. J. J. (Den), 44. J. J. (Den), 45. J. J. (Den), 46. J. J. (Den), 47. J. J. (Den), 48. J. J. (Den), 49. J. J. (Den), 50. J. J. (Den), 51. J. J. (Den), 52. J. J. (Den), 53. J. J. (Den), 54. J. J. (Den), 55. J. J. (Den), 56. J. J. (Den), 57. J. J. (Den), 58. J. J. 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Sales and Marketing

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If you can honestly answer yes to ALL questions, then you could be one of the people we are looking for to sell Classified Advertising for The Times and Sunday Times.

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While we give you all the training and encouragement you need, how far you progress is dependent on your own sales effort and ultimate performance.

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(London based)

The Company, which has been established for 8 years, specialises in the operation of coach tours throughout Europe, Scandinavia and the UK, tailor-made for groups from North America, the Middle East and South Africa. A comprehensive FIT programme has also proved extremely successful in these markets.

We are now seeking to appoint a top-level, dynamic Sales Executive, at least 30 years of age, with a minimum of 5 years' experience in sales, preferably in the travel industry. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of new markets and for the Company's planned expansion for 1984 into new markets, with emphasis on the Far East and Australia.

In order to meet the Company's aggressive sales objectives, it is essential that candidates will have an in-depth knowledge of the European Tour product, considerable experience in selling this or related products, and should, ideally, have established contacts with potential clients in the above markets.

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Applications are invited for the post of Director Scotland which will be vacant in January, 1985, on the retirement of the present Director, Dr J Morton Boyd, BSc, PhD, DSc, FRSE.

The person appointed will be responsible for NCC's activities in Scotland including a staff of 115 and 61 National Nature Reserves and over 800 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and will work closely with the Chairman of Council's Advisory Committee for Scotland. As a member of the Board of Directors the Director contributes to the formulation and implementation of Council's policies and to the wider management of NCC throughout Great Britain.

Candidates must be capable of working at the highest levels with Central and Local Government and Agencies, with land managers and users, and with scientific, professional and voluntary bodies.

A proven capacity for leadership and management is required as is an appropriate background of experience. The post provides outstanding opportunities for developing nature conservation.

The post is graded at Deputy Chief Scientific Officer and is based in Edinburgh.

Interviews will be held in London (19/20 Belgrave Square) during May 1984.

For application forms and further details contact Mrs J Whiting, Nature Conservancy Council, Godwin House, George Street, Haddington, Cambs. Tel: Haddington 56191, Ext 278. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 30 March 1984.

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Ideally we require graduates in food technology or food science or alternatively someone with 2 to 3 years experience in a food processing company. Duties will include work on the development of new products, quality control and liaison with our customers on the technical possibilities of the product range.

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A practical knowledge and a dedication to the use of the best modern management methods, together with the self-confidence to lead a team of professional managers are essential.

The person appointed must be able to provide positive Christian leadership to the staff of the Publishing Division and will see Bible Society as a vital instrument in the continuance and development of Christian mission in the world.

For an application form and job description please apply to Mr. A. James Escent, Personnel Officer, Bible Society, 146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BX. (01-248 4751).

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General Appointments

The Times guide to career development

Get the community action habit

It's tough trying to get out of the trough of long-term unemployment. Even graduates equipped with above-average resourcefulness and the capacity to beat off boredom can easily succumb to the demoralizing routine of bed till noon and TV thereafter.

That was why, two years ago, the Manpower Services Commission set up its "Community Programme, to help those who have not been in a job for some time to rebuild the habit of work.

The Community Programme actually meets two needs. The first is to help the unemployed regain their confidence. The second is to undertake useful "community projects" from which a neighbourhood or locality can benefit.

This does not just mean cleaning up the eye-sores which any self-respecting council would have dealt with years ago. Nor indeed is CP restricted to quasi-social work. One of the exciting things about the programme is the width of opportunities which it offers. Indeed, great imagination has been shown in developing resources so as to create a range of stimulating openings.

For example, recent editions of *Graduate Post*, the MSC's newspaper for graduate job-seekers, has carried advertisements for graphic designers, photographers, computer programmers, technical writers, community education workers, and industrial archaeologists - all under the programme. These vacancies were for interesting work (Some were part-

time). But of course none of them was "permanent" and the wages were modest (an average of £60 per week).

Springtime is likely to be a good period for recruitment of recent graduates to the Community Programme. Under its regulations 18 to 24-year-olds are eligible only if they have been unemployed for six out of the preceding nine months. Consequently, graduates from last summer are now starting to qualify. (Those aged 25 and over are also eligible providing they have been out of work for 12 of the last 15 months).

Nationwide there are 130,000 places and, apart from the South-east, they have not been hard to fill. The Government, following a recent review, has just given the programme the go-ahead for a further two years, and the evidence seems to suggest that people coming off CP are finding it easier to get full-time employment.

Apart from any other benefits the experience of work provided by CP is a definite asset when job-seeking. To be able to demonstrate specific skills and responsibilities gained in CP is always much better than a blank employment record.

Thirty MSC recruits are passing 1984 in the wooded upper reaches of the Tamar valley - at Morwellham, Devon. A century ago this was a thriving port exporting Dartmoor minerals. Schooners of up to 300 tons jied up at the quays, until decay set in at the turn of the century when the railway arrived.

Now the docks, cottages, workshops and farms have become recreated as living history. Morwellham is an industrial archaeology museum, with its own interpretive staff clad in costumes of a century ago.

The MSC staff are helping with extra projects to deep the sense of returning to the past. Three women - one with haute couture experience - are designing and making Victorian costumes from crinolines to working gear for dummies in a tableaux. An ex-miner, brought in from Redruth (no local man was available) is assisting in extending the route which visitors will travel through the copper mine. A skilled surveyor is also in the team. A mason in his mid-30s, overjoyed to be working again after the collapse of his firm, is in charge a mile downstream, at the deserted farmlet of New Quay. Here unskilled MSC colleagues are learning to make safe the ruined houses, lime kilns and access route to preserve the place from ruin.

At the Tank Museum, Bovington, in Dorset, nine men and women on CP include teachers and education officer. Some of them are indexing the collection and the library, and one is a photographer. The curator, Lt Col. George Forty, hopes that the mu-

Edward Fennell considers the appeal of the MSC's Community Programme for graduates, while Ann Hills (below) looks at the scheme in action

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Foundation course

Back on the Duke of Bedford's private drive at Morwellham, two other adult trainees are acquiring the art of handling shire horses, which draw wondrous of tourists. "These skills are rare - they should find jobs after leaving," says the museum's manager Gary Emerson.

He formed the CP scheme in November 1983, "just before a temporary moratorium was called". MSC contributes salaries from £80 to £188 a week, and an extra £440 towards materials - from explosives in the mine to cloth for clothes for each worker, full or part-time.

Hint House, a Victorian listed school in Faversham, Kent is being converted by MSC workers into a centre for craftspeople. A tourist information centre and a hall for hire by the tank.

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The sponsors of the individual projects who run the schemes on behalf of the MSC mostly tend to be local authorities, and churches, and although churches, clubs, and indeed local businesses could all get involved.

Trade unions have expressed reservations about the programme, and there has been opposition from other quarters. The Right Reverend David Sheppard, the Bishop of Liverpool and chairman of the MSC Area Board for Merseyside and Cheshire, has described recently how the programme in his area was launched "in the teeth of great opposition". Nonetheless, 115,000 people were engaged in early February, so it clearly has some appeal.

Indeed, it could be argued that CP is one of the positive outcomes from the recession, since it encourages local initiatives, backed by national money, and organizes schemes which benefit both participants and the community at large.

If western industrialized society truly does face the "collapse of work" in the face of automation, then new methods have to be found for engaging people in useful and satisfying activity. The Community Programme may represent the way forward, providing both a bridge into permanent jobs and a model for long-term experience in new forms of employment. If you are an unemployed graduate, then the CP in your area may well be worth following up.

The MSC project manager is Piers Dixon, 30, an archaeology graduate. "There are few permanent jobs in the field," he says, adding that he hopes for an extension beyond the end of the year in August. The task requires continuity.

The team has put on an exhibition explaining several digs and revealing finds, and plans to produce a computerized sites and monuments record for the whole region.

The year's work is costing MSC £182,000. £147,000 for wages, the rest for administration and running costs. Reports on success so far are available from Alison Macgregor, Borders Architects Group, Turret House, Kelso.

"Jobs are shifting to the suburbs" last Thursday was by Barrie Sherman.

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For further details and an application form (to be returned by 16 March 1984) write to Civil Service Commission, Alcon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref. T/6170/3.



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